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A GREAT PAST—A GREATER FUTURE

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF DWIGHT

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

IN THE EARLY PART of the year 1905 Col. Frank L. Smith, an enterprising and successful townsman, became interested in the establishment of a National Bank in Dwight. He secured the services of Frank Lloyd Wright, the well-known architect, and arranged for the erection of a handsome stone building, including furniture and fixtures. Mr. Wright, now recognized as the dean of architects in this country and abroad, created a structure that stands as an example of lasting functional planning. The general structure of the building has never been changed since it was originally built, however interior changes were made in order to keep abreast with modern banking conditions and the growth of the institution.

The stock was all purchased by local people and the bank started with a \$50,000 capital and \$5000 surplus. Col. Smith, the president, was the leading spirit in the institution. Other local people who were also interested in the establishment and contributed to the early success of the bank were John R. Oughton, President of the Leslie E. Keeley Company; Major Curtis J. Judd, Treasurer of the Leslie E. Keeley Company; Charles L. Romberger, also an officer of the Leslie E. Keeley Company and a practicing attorney; Joe Miller, a leading merchant and R. S. Ludington, who

had just moved to Dwight and also an attorney.

According to the records, the Comptroller of the Currency of the Treasury Department of the United States of America reserved the title of "The First National Bank of Dwight" on June 7, 1905 for the persons mentioned above. Shortly after the notice was received from the Comptroller of the Currency, the bank received its charter number, 8044 and was authorized to commence the business of banking as provided in Section fifty-one hundred and sixty-nine of the revised statutes of the United States. The bank has been operating under this charter since the date of organization.

The first meeting of the stockholders was held on the 10th day of January, 1906 at which time directors were elected as follows: Frank L. Smith, Charles L. Romberger, Curtis J. Judd, R. S. Ludington and Joe Miller.

Immediately following the election of the directors, they held a meeting for the purpose of electing their officers which were as follows: Frank L. Smith, President; Curtis J. Judd, Vice President; John R. Oughton, Vice President and John J. Doherty, Cashier. E. M. Hoffman, the first bookkeeper, is still employed by the bank and now holds the office of president.

PRESENT OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES

OFFICERS

E. M. Hoffman, President
James H. Oughton, Jr., Vice President
C. J. Ahern, Jr., Vice President
Ralph F. Sodini, Cashier
R. W. Dempster, Assistant Cashier

DIRECTORS

C. J. Ahern, Jr.
E. M. Hoffman
Clare R. Mc Namara
Martin N. Nelson
James H. Oughton, Jr.
Richard C. Oughton

EMPLOYEES — Velda T. Erickson, Velda Paulsen, Beverly Weller, Regina Neville, Phyllis Pedersen

One Hundred SOLID YEARS

NEXT April 14, the Bank of Dwight — Dwight's first "permanent business place", and the State of Illinois' fifth oldest bank — will have completed One Hundred Solid Years of Service.

We are proud of the fact that these one hundred years are years of *continuous* service — unmarred by recessions, depressions, and failures — service made possible by forward-looking, yet conservative banking practices. A good example of the workability of these practices is the fact that the Bank of Dwight was one of the first to open its doors after the "Bank Holiday" of 1933.

The success of any banking venture depends, of course, on the support received from the bank's customers. The officers and directors of the Bank of Dwight express their humble appreciation for the support given the bank by the people of the area . . . since 1855.

WITH tongue in cheek, it may be said that, thanks to his Scotch ancestry, the banking profession came quite naturally to David McWilliams.

The fact of the matter is that, in April of 1855, 22 year old David McWilliams opened a "bank" in the white building pictured on the Dwight Centennial Seal — the D. McWilliams Store, which also functioned as a shelter for newcomers, and even as a place of worship. At that time, the bank had no charter and no capital structure. All banking transactions were based on faith in the character of McWilliams, and consisted of deposits against which McWilliams would issue his personal check upon request (not unlike the present-day bank drafts). The first regular depositor, incidentally, was Hugh Thompson; his grandson today, is one of the bank's officers.

Until its incorporation in 1906, the Bank of Dwight was a private bank; even today, the capital stock remains in the McWilliams family, with the exception of shares held by the bank's officers and directors.

John P. McWilliams, Charles D. McWilliams, Jr., J. Alexander McWilliams, Harold J. West, Angus S. Lower, Earl N. Hager are directors.

*of
Service*

BANK OF DWIGHT

MEMBER, F.D.I.C.

JOHN P. McWILLIAMS
President

HAROLD J. WEST
Executive VP & Cashier

ANGUS S. LOWER
Vice President

HUGH THOMPSON
Asst. Cashier

This page is dedicated to the memory of . . .

PAUL C. PAULSEN

To have an ambition in life is one thing. To accomplish the goal set by that ambition is quite another. Too often in business the sight of the goal is lost in the eagerness to make profits.

Paul C. Paulsen started in business in Dwight in 1917 with an ambition to give this community the best equipped automobile sales and service garage it is possible to maintain. He set the mark high and then started out with a determination to accomplish his end whatever the cost in effort. Mr. Paulsen attained his goal by always having the best equipped shop and turning out every job as near mechanically perfect as possible.

Mr. Paulsen came to Dwight 37 years ago from Chicago and started in business in a space rented in the rear of Christopher Brothers, operating a repair shop. In January, 1924, he purchased the business and equipment of George Brumbach's garage in the Kepplinger building, where he inherited the sales agency for the Oakland Automobile; to this was added the Pontiac in 1926. This business was conducted until 1929 when fire destroyed the building and caused Mr. Paulsen considerable loss. The

fire occurred Saturday morning and Monday morning, Mr. Paulsen was ready for business in space secured in Zappa's garage, through the courtesy of B. Hamilton, who was operating this garage.

Back in 1925 Mr. Paulsen bought the building now occupied by Howard Paulsen, his son, but did not move into it until June, 1930. With this he acquired the sales agency of the Chevrolet Automobile and Trucks. He immediately built a new front to the building, the following year built the south wing, where the repair shop is located; in 1942 built the modern service station on the corner of Chippewa and Prairie Streets, and in 1952 set up Dwight's first Used Car lot on the south side of Chippewa Street. Mr. Paulsen always kept abreast of the times in building and remodeling.

In 1945 Mr. Paulsen took his son Howard into the business continuing thus as a partnership until his untimely death on December 29, 1953. The business that Mr. Paulsen started in 1917, continues to be operated by his son Howard as Paulsen Chevrolet who will give the community the best in Automobile Service.

PAULSEN

SYMBOLIC OF SAVINGS



EMBLEM OF EXCELLENCE

Dwight Centennial Celebration

AUGUST 15 TO 22, 1954

Dwight Centennial Association

Edw. C. Dickler, Chairman

Hugh Thompson, Secretary

Herbert C. Boyer, Vice Chairman

Maurice Nelson, Treasurer



Pictured above are the members of the Dwight Centennial Committee. Left to right, they are: First row — James Oughton; Miss Ruth Brendley, Recording Secretary; Edw. Dickler; Hugh Thompson; Maurice Nelson; Back Row: Chester D. Pierce; Jim Baker; Rev. Paul F. Hartmann; Warren D. Kuster; C. J. Ahern, Jr.; Dr. J. L. Campbell; Herbert Boyer; George Hager; Harold West.

Committees . . .

Centennial Book Historical Committee—Tuesday Night Literary Club

Centennial Book Advertising Committee—Rotary Club

Pageant Committee—Senior Woman's Club

Centennial Ball Committee—Lion's Club

Centennial Banquet Committee—Junior Woman's Club

Parade Committee—Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion

Alumni Reunion—DTHS Alumni Association

Safety and Police Committee—Dwight Fire Dept.

Special Events—Gen. Centennial Committee

Food Concessions, Homemakers Exhibits—Home Bureaus

American Legion Hospital Day—American Legion

Industrial Exhibits—Dwight Auto Dealers' Association

Queen Contest—American Legion Auxiliary

Window and Hobby Displays—Order of Eastern Star

Womens' Painters Club and Pale Face Club—VFW Auxiliary

Bearded Brotherhood and Little Shavers Club—Veterans of Foreign Wars

Kiddie Parade—Sunday Schools of Dwight Churches

Centennial Seal and other Artistic Designing—Louis Groll

Lighting Committee—Public Service Employees and Dwight Electricians

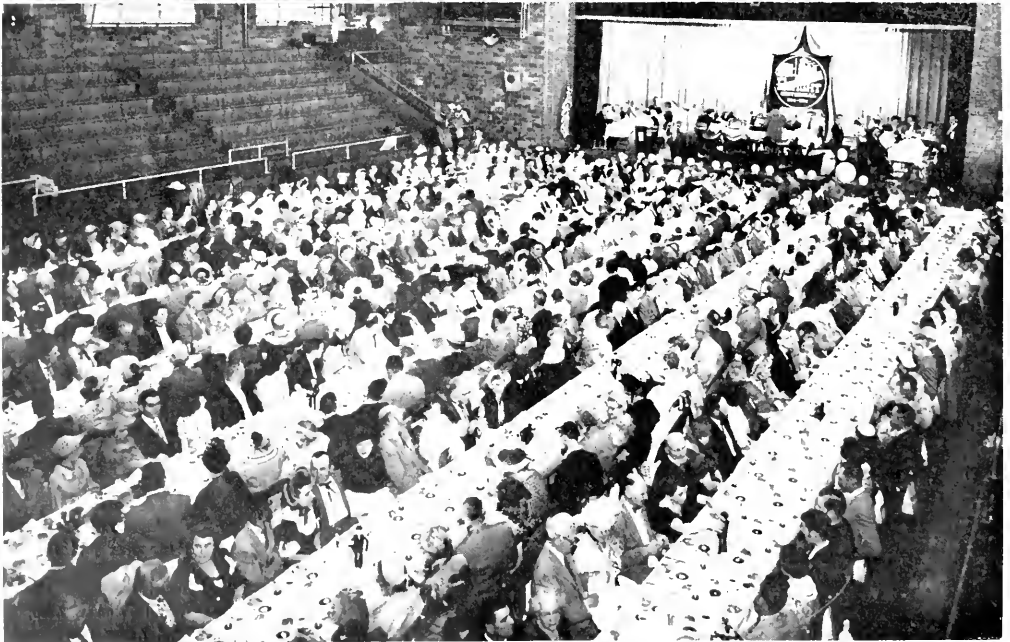
Grounds Committees—Dwight School Boards

Collection of Properties for Pageant—Dwight Truckers Asso.

Religious Observances—Dwight Ministerial Association

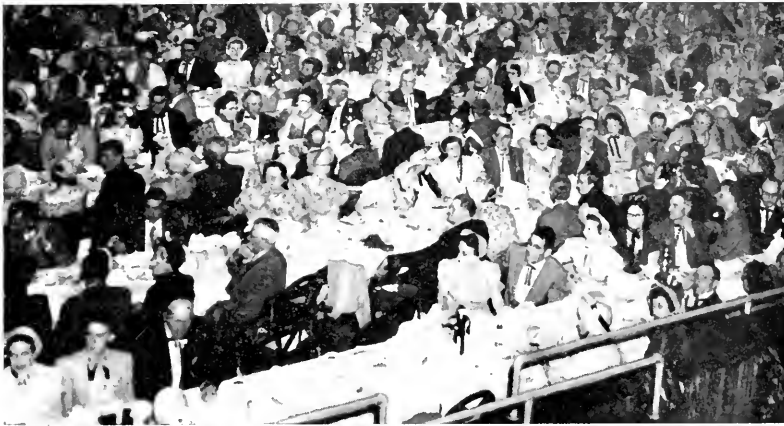


At the left, Edward C. Dickler, Centennial Chairman, has just announced that Julaine Short will reign as queen of the Dwight Centennial. Sunny Christiansen, in the background, will be a member of the Queen's court. In the photo above, Queen Julaine Short poses with Governor William G. Stratton and Mrs. Barbara Christman. Gov. Stratton gave the centennial address and Mrs. Christman is Dwight's oldest resident. She will celebrate her 100th birthday October 9. The bottom photo shows most of the 580 people present for the banquet, seated at tables prior to the opening of the evening's festivities.





These people shown at the left were the honored ones at Dwight's Centennial Banquet. Seated are Mrs. Minnie Connor, 92; Mrs. Barbara Christman, 99; and Mrs. Rebecca Hoffman, 93. Standing are Jane Ann Scott, Joyce Spangler, Honorable William G. Stratton Governor of Illinois; Queen Julaine Short, Thelma Schaefer and Sunny Joan Christiansen. The four young ladies will form the Queen's court during Centennial Week.



The photo above shows part of the Banquet crowd from a different angle. This picture was taken at the conclusion of the dinner and just before the main program got underway. The photo at the right shows Dwight residents pouring into the main section of DTHS gym for the Banquet. Oldtime dresses and beards were prominent among those attending the banquet.





80th Anniversary of Lumber Yard — 1874-1954

40th Anniversary of The Hager Lumber Co. 1914-1954

George Z. Flagler moved to Dwight from New York in 1855. The first year he worked as a farm-hand, but with the prospects of the Village growing, he quit farm work and started as a carpenter and contractor. He continued this line of work until 1874, when he started the lumber business at its present site.

In 1877 he sold an interest to Thomas Sims, and for three years they operated the business as Flagler and Sims. In 1880 Mr. Sims sold his interest to Zed Johnson, and the partnership of Flagler and Johnson, continued for the next three and one-half years. At this time Mr. Flagler bought out Mr. Johnson's interest and continued the business alone, with the help of his son, George N. Flagler.

In 1897 George N. Flagler succeeded his father as sole owner, and continued the business with the help of his son Edward Flagler. In the late fall of 1909 Edward contracted pneumonia and died at the age of 31 years.

On December 5, 1909, Earl N. Hager started work as

office clerk and yard man, and continued as such, for the next four years. On January 14, 1914 he bought the business from Mr. Flagler. For the next 15 years, the business was conducted with the original office and warehouses. In 1929 Mr. Hager came into possession of the real estate, and a program of permanent improvements was started. During that year the present office was erected. In 1937, two adjoining lots were purchased from the McWilliams family, a new warehouse erected and the yard further enlarged. In 1952 a new lumber shed, with a capacity of 500,000 feet of lumber was erected, and the building program completed. In 1949, George B. Hager joined his father as a partner, now doing business as the Hager Lumber Company.

The yard now stands completely modern in every respect, well stocked with everything in the building material line, for the farm or home.



Dwight Centennial Week Program

Sunday, August 15—Religion Day

Tuesday, August 17—Centennial Ball

Wednesday, August 18—Pageant

Thursday, August 19—Free Acts, Pageant, Fireworks

Friday, August 20—Free Acts, and Square Dance

Saturday, August 21—Free Acts, Alumni Reunion, Pageant

Sunday, August 22—Street Parade



Hand in Hand

Since 1868

★

DWIGHT

and the

Dwight Star and Herald

We Supply Your Bakery Goods—

THEN



*This was the way in those
"Good ol' days"*

NOW

It's

**OHLENDORF
BAKERY**

118 EAST ST. • DWIGHT

In 1908 Gus Ohlendorf started a bakery and restaurant on West St. For 46 years Ohlendorf has meant bakery goods to Dwight housewives. Now Gus' sons Herman and Harold carry on the family trade.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1954

Dear Mr. Pierce:

My warm greetings and congratulations go to you and all your fellow citizens of Dwight, Illinois, on the occasion of your centennial celebration.

I am happy to learn of this significant anniversary in the history of your village and join you in the hope expressed in your centennial theme, that your future will be even greater than your past. May there be happiness and prosperity for all who abide there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dwight D. Eisenhower", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr. Chester D. Pierce
Village President
Dwight
Illinois

L. C. ARENDS, M. C.
17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

WILLIAM R. PITTS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

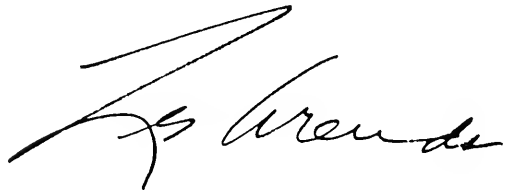
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My heartiest congratulations to my friends and constituents of Dwight upon their 100th Anniversary!

I am sure I speak for all the people of our 17th Congressional District in expressing our great pride in the progressive Village of Dwight and its 100 years of accomplishments. The history of Dwight is the history of America. It was founded and built over the years by humble, courageous, self-reliant folks who loved freedom and feared God.

To the people of Dwight, what is past is prologue to what will be achieved as a community for an even more rewarding tomorrow for your children and theirs. That is the unconquerable spirit of Dwight which has enriched its past and gives great promise for its future.

Again, my congratulations and very best wishes!



H. ALEXANDER SMITH, N. J., CHAIRMAN
IRVING M. IVES, N. Y.
DWIGHT GRISWOLD, NEBR.
WILLIAM A. PURTELL, CONN.
BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, KY.
ROBERT W. UPTON, N. H.
JAMES E. MURRAY, MONT.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
MATTHEW W. NEELY, W. VA.
PAUL H. DOUGLAS, ILL.
HERBERT N. LEHMAN, N. Y.
JOHN F. KENNEDY, MASS.

ROY E. JAMES, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

April 22, 1954

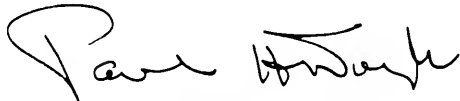
Mr. Chester D. Pierce
Village President
Dwight, Illinois

Dear Mr. Pierce:

I am happy to send the following message
for inclusion in the Dwight Centennial Book:

I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Dwight, and its citizens on the Centennial of the founding of the village. I wish the Village of Dwight continued development and prosperity, and the sturdy, independent citizenry which has marked its past history. Such villages as Dwight are the real backbone of our country, and in general one may find no better class of citizens anywhere. Therefore, the Village of Dwight should look upon this Centennial as a celebration of honorable achievement and the beginning of another century of accomplishment under Freedom.

Faithfully,



Paul H. Douglas

PHD/FMN/jc

WILLIAM LANGER, N. OAK., CHAIRMAN
ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS.
WILLIAM F. JENNE, IND.
ARTHUR V. WATKINS, UTAH
ROBERT C. HENDRICKSON, N. J.
EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, ILL.
HERMAN WELKER, IDAHO
JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER, MO.
PAT MCCARRAN, NEV.
HARLEY M. KILGORE, W. VA.
JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS.
ESTES KEEFAUVER, TENN.
OLIN O. JOHNSON, S. C.
THOMAS C. HENNING, JR., MO.
JOHN L. MCCLELLAN, ARK.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

May 13, 1954

Honorable Chester D. Pierce
Village President
Dwight, Illinois

Dear Mr. Pierce:

A village which has for 100 years maintained its name, its identity, and its intrinsic character merits heartiest congratulations.

But Dwight has done something more than this. It has preserved an unhurried tranquility and sweetness in periods of strifes and tension which makes one recall the line in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" where he refers to it as "Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain where health and plenty cheered the laboring swain."

To bestow a compliment on a community is at once to bestow the compliment also on its people and its leaders. For it is through devotion to the best ideals of community life that a city or village preserves a wholesome atmosphere and maintains an environment where the citizens of tomorrow can grow up in peace, with a noble concept of freedom and the character which makes them worthy for the trusteeship of this free Republic. Let me therefore salute the village of Dwight on its 100th Anniversary.

Sincerely,


Everett McKinley Dirksen

History of Dwight

In the decade beginning with 1851, the swampy, alluvial prairies of northeast central Illinois were still sparsely populated, the last remaining frontier of Illinois, and were presenting an inviting challenge to the immigrants from northern Europe and also to the wealthy land buyers from the British Isles and the Eastern United States. The steel walking plow had been invented a few years earlier at Grand Detour in northern Illinois by Major Andrus and John Deere, the Illinois-Michigan canal had been opened in 1847, Chicago was becoming a city nearly twenty years old, and many railroads were being built to it.

In 1850 William Scully came from Ireland to inspect these prairies in Illinois. He walked about Livingston, Grundy, Logan, and Tazewell Counties with his spade sampling the soil. He anticipated correctly that the new Chicago and Mississippi Railroad would pass through this area, and thus give a market outlet for grain. He envisioned draining the swamp land. He went back to Ireland, sold some of his land holdings, borrowed \$50,000 from his brother, Thomas Scully, and returned to Illinois in 1852. Here he now bought land in these counties, always trying to remain within five miles of the proposed railroad right-of-way. He sent three of his own men to an engineering school to train them to tile his lands here, and then he used these men for the next forty years.

In 1851 a group of immigrants from Franconia, Bavaria, Germany, came to Chicago, and then to Oswego, Illinois, where they remained for the next winter. Two of this group, John Rancher, and George Stephen Burger, bought land in Goodfarm township in that year, 1851. The next spring this colony moved to Goodfarm township and that year George Siemandel (Simantel) also bought land. Others worked for the railroad being built, and with that money also bought land. The Rev. Henry Musselmann, and the Rev. G. Vetter of the German Evangelical Church near Naperville began to hold religious services in the home of Peter Haag in Goodfarm, and this became the beginning of Salem Evangelical Church. In this same year of 1852 Mr. James C. Spencer and Mr. T. C. Meyer explored the right-of-way for the new Chicago and Mississippi railroad.

In 1853 Oliver H. Lee, chief engineer, and his three assistants: R. P. Morgan, Jr., James C. Spencer, and H. A. Gardner, surveyed the land for the railroad right-of-way. The land around Dwight was deeded to the railroad, and Henry C. Dwight furnished the money to construct the railroad from Bloomington to Joliet. Years later Mr. Dwight complained that "his fortune lay buried beneath the tracks of the railroad," for he lost his fortune in this venture. In those days, interest rates were usually 10% and there was a lot of speculation and financial shenanigans.

The Dwight town plot was surveyed by Nelson Buck, deputy County surveyor for Amos Edwards, the regular County surveyor, for R. P. Morgan, Jr., James C. Spencer, John Lathrope, and Jesse and K. W. Fell, who owned the land on which it stands. Jesse Fell is credited with having been the first man to urge Abraham Lincoln to run for the presidency. In this same year of 1853, the first cabin and depot were built. We know that Mr. A. West worked on building the depot for he cut the shingles in the timber. The repair shops of the western division of the railroad, the headquarters of the bridge builders of the main line and the tank men were located here, but later moved to Bloomington.

On January 30, 1854, a memorable scene took place here. R. P. Morgan, Jr., gathered about him the railroad workmen, walked to a 22 foot pole which had been erected to guide the surveyors, and on which an inverted tin pail had been placed, and there R. P. Morgan, Jr., spoke the following famous proclamation: "To be known as the town of Dwight, and the streets and alleys described on the plot to be donated to the public." At first the town was called Western New York, and in 1858 an effort was made to call it "Beckman" but the name "Dwight" won out by one vote.

Richard P. Morgan, Jr., was born at "Old Stockbridge," Mass., Sept. 17, 1828. He was a civil engineer for the Illinois-Michigan Canal in 1845-46. He moved to Bloomington in 1852. In 1854 he became General Superintendent of the Chicago and Mississippi railroad. From 1857 to 1868 he farmed near Dwight. In 1860 he was chairman of the Livingston County delegation to the State Republican Convention at Decatur. He was an earnest supporter of Abraham Lincoln, the "rail splitter" candidate. He invented the Gothic Arch Elevated Railroad system for cities, and thus gave the world the only successful scheme of

rapid transit in cities. Later Gov. Palmer appointed him to the Board of Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois.

The early pioneers experienced great hardships by our modern standards. They had to build their homes of logs or haul lumber from Chicago. Logs were not too plentiful since timber grew only along the creek banks. The pioneers made use of tallow for candles, and also made soap out of the same thing. They made crude lamps with a saucer like vessel in which they placed oil or fat and a wick. Raspberry leaves were dried for tea, rye was parched for coffee. Hams, bacon, and grain were bartered for calico cloth, dry goods and such groceries as could be purchased. Women would dry hops in summer to make yeast mixed with corn meal which was dried into cakes. But the most serious deficiency was competent medical help. Women would dry herbs which were then prescribed if any one got sick.

Cholera was a serious threat. When Gen. Scott came by boat to Chicago over Lake Michigan and marched across Illinois through Kendall County to stop an Indian insurrection and massacre in western Illinois, some of his soldiers died of the plague, and spread the disease among the pioneers. In 1854 Michael Schaufler and his wife, Margaret, and their child died. Mrs. Schaufler was a sister of Fred and Andrew Burkhardt.

These hardships and the nearness of death, together with the fact that these early pioneers were deeply religious, strengthened their desire to found churches. In 1854 the Lutheran group in Goodfarm organized the Evangelical Lutheran Franconian Church under the leadership of Rev. Henry Wunder of First St. Paul Lutheran Church of Chicago. This is regarded as the first organized congregation in this area.

Dwight was becoming the center for these pioneer settlers. In 1854 from Cassville, Penna., came James McIlhuff, who bought ten acres and "broke" it. This, it is claimed, was the first "breaking of prairie" in Dwight township. Squire McIlhuff was also Postmaster of Dwight from Oct. 8, 1866 to April 5th, 1869. The railroad was completed and on July 4th, 1854 the first train ran all the way from Bloomington to Joliet. Regular daily passenger service was in operation by August 1, 1854. Around this time there came from Rochester, Ohio to Morris three men headed for what is now Dwight. These were James Lynch, George T. and Henry Conant. They inquired of the lock man in Morris how to get

here, and they were directed southward. They crossed the Mazon river and came to a man chopping shingles in the timber. It was Mr. A. West cutting shingles for the new depot in Dwight. They asked him to direct them to their sister, Mrs. H. M. T. Cutler, who lived on what is now the home farm of Mr. Fred Zabel, north of Dwight. No more is heard of Mr. Lynch, but the Conant boys stayed and their father soon followed. This was John Conant. He became the first Postmaster of Dwight, and the first Justice of the Peace. The first Postoffice was located in the home of Simeon Lutz, later in the McWilliams store. Henry Conant died on Sept. 22, 1858, shortly after he had helped to found the Dwight cemetery in July. John Conant was a Congregationalist, and he later became a clerk of that church for thirteen years. He had been an officer in the War of 1812. He was a Republican. He was a man of massive proportions, weighing 240 pounds. Mr. H. M. T. Cutler, who had been a steward in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Columbus, Ohio, was a son-in-law of John Conant, and Mr. Cutler acted as a male nurse during the cholera epidemic. He nursed a Mr. Colgate back to health.

Around August 10th of that year, 1854, there came to Dwight on the train a man by the name of David McWilliams. He came from Griggsville, Pike County, Illinois, originally from Scotch Ridge Settlement, Ohio. Mr. McWilliams stayed only a short while in Dwight, but he liked what he saw. The next year in March he was back to start a general store, the first permanent store in Dwight. He left again in May and when he returned very shortly, he brought his bride who had been Miss Louisa Weagley of Griggsville. Her sister later married Charles Baker, and thus became the grandmother of our present James Baker. In May Mr. McWilliams started the first banking service, for on May 15th he "received from Hugh Thompson \$221.70 payable on demand at 10% interest." This money Mr. McWilliams deposited in an eastern bank where he maintained an account and this was the beginning of the Bank of Dwight.

In 1854 there came in the fall from Guernsey County, Ohio, Robert Thompson, esq. He lived on a farm west of Dwight, and built a school for that district. He was a County Supervisor for twelve years. He was appointed one of three Commissioners to lay off swamp lands of Livingston County, 24,280 acres. He was the found-

er of the Presbyterian Church of which he was an only elder for several years. He was a Democrat. Mr. Thompson's school had to have a teacher. He found one in the person of the Hon. J. G. Strong, born March 4, 1836 in Lebanon, Boone County, Indiana. He attended Cincinnati Law College in 1859. He taught the Thompson school for \$1.00 per day. He also served as a lawyer on the side. He conducted a "back pay, bounty and pension" office after the War between the States. In 1870 Mr. Strong was elected to the State Legislature and in 1872 to the State Senate for four years. He conducted the Exchange Bank in Dwight. He subscribed \$1,000 for the new Methodist church although his total assets at the time did not exceed \$5,000. In 1879 he moved to South Dakota to assume the position of secretary of the Yankton Indian Agency. Later he moved to Kansas and entered the grain and milling business. Here in Kansas he died several years later.

On December 22 of that year, 1854, the Post Office was established here. A mail contract was given to the new railroad to carry mail from Joliet to St. Louis through Dwight from October 1st on at \$100 per mile per year, for the distance of the 245 miles. This contract ran to June, 1858. Also in 1854 John Campbell erected a building south of the depot as a railroad dining room.

Trains from Joliet stopped here for dinner, and the train from St. Louis stopped for supper. This dining room was later purchased by Hiram Cornell, and still later it was moved to Bloomington.

On October 9, 1854 in Goodfarm township there was born to George Stephan Burger, and his wife, a daughter, who was baptized by Pastor Wunder of Chicago, that fall, and named Eva Barbara Burger. This lady, now Mrs. Barbara Christman, is still living, and is today Dwight's oldest living citizen.

Mr. A. West would "wood up" the locomotive on the railroad which was named "The James C. Spencer." Mr. West built the first permanent residence here on lots 18 and 19 in block 7. His house was completed in June, 1854. Also this year there came from Holidaysburg, Penn., a Major Thomas McDowell. He purchased several thousand acres of land southwest of Dwight. It was to his home that the "refugees" of the snow stalled train were brought in the winter of 1855-56. Major McDowell took the women to his own house and dispatched his team to town with the rest. The total number was around 150. Among them were a group of legislators from Springfield who had gone to Joliet to see about locating the prison there from Alton. These legislators were taken the next day by sleigh to Morris, and from there through LaSalle, and



An interior view of the David McWilliams General Store in the very early days of Dwight.

Bloomington, Decatur to Springfield.

In 1855 Hiram Cornell bought out the Campbell dining room. It was later moved to Bloomington, and Cornell built the first hotel, named "The Dwight House." Now, no western hotel in those days was without its barrel of whiskey for the guests. Cornell also had a barrel of whiskey, but during the cold spell of 1855 it froze solid, and he could not move it, so it did not thaw out until spring.

Early in March, 1855, David McWilliams began to erect a store building 20 x 32 feet, two stories high. He had some lumber hauled to the lot across from the present Methodist Church on Mazon avenue, but he was persuaded that it was too far from the depot, so he changed his location near where the Post Office stood. He soon had to add 40 feet to the rear, and 24 feet to the front of his store so that it became 32 x 96 feet. The first article sold was a shilling lawn dress bought by the station agent, Thomas Wilson, for his wife. The Wilsons had lost a child in 1854. This child of Thomas Wilson and his wife was the first child born in Dwight, but the child died before the age of six months, and thus became the first death in the area. The second death was the wife of Alexander Gourley, who died at Mr. West's home in 1855. The first marriage is considered to be that of Eldin G. Ragen, and Maria West on February 19, 1856. Another early birth was a child born in 1855 to Mr. and Mrs. N. Riggs.

The first school was built on the west side about 15 rods from the McWilliams store at a cost of \$275.00. The first directors were David McWilliams, Jeremiah Travis, and Nelson Cornell. Miss Sarah Snyder was the first teacher. In 1861 she wrote a poem about Dwight. People who came to Dwight during 1855 were: Hiram Cornell and his wife, George Flagler and family, W. H. Clarkson, and family, Isaac H. Baker and family, David McWilliams, who later that year went back to Griggsville to bring back his bride, S. L. H. Ramsey, and family in June, Jeremiah Travis and family in August, and in the fall William H. Ketcham and family, Burwin Losee and family, and Dr. J. H. Hagerty. The buildings then were: the railroad station, John Campbell's eating house, Mr. West's house, a boarding house for railroad hands, a grocery shanty, with two families living in it, and a shanty house which Dr. Hagerty bought from one of the railroad workers and used for an office and house. The

Goodfarm cemetery deed was recorded that year. George Burkhart died July 30, 1854, Leonard Pfeiffer, August 19, Marie Fischer, September 2, Marie M. and Margaretha Racher, both on September 4th. The cause was probably cholera.

The first Sunday School was Methodist, held on May 15 in a building owned by J. J. Gore. Mr. John Routzeng was elected superintendent. The first Methodist Church service was held over the McWilliams store June 10 with Rev. A. D. Field as minister. Prices in Dwight on December 15, 1855 were: Flour \$9.50 per barrel, corn 35c per bushel, potatoes 30c (probably per bushel), beef \$5 to \$6 ctw. and pork \$5.50 ctw. In the great snow of 1855-56 the temperatures fell to 25-30 below zero for a period of about six weeks. While the train was stalled it became necessary for passengers to break up the car seats to keep fires burning to stay warm.

Early in 1856 the Presbyterian Church was founded. A church was built in 1857 on land given by James C. Spencer and R. P. Morgan, Jr. The church cost \$2,620. In that year Rev. Lorenz E. Kaehler became the first resident pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Franconian (now Trinity) in Goodfarm. Salem Evangelical Church built its first building under the Rev. Schreiber on land given by Peter Haag. David McWilliams attended the first Republican State Convention in Bloomington in 1856, and here he met Abraham Lincoln and Owen Lovejoy. On the first ballot he voted for John C. Fremont.

In 1857 Mr. C. Roadnight, coming from England, settled about three miles south of Dwight. His English farming methods failed him, however, and he became the general freight agent for the new railroad. A larger school was built this year on the east side on land donated by James C. Spencer. No bridge was built, however, over the creek at this time, and a railroad bridge farther north had to be used. There was much tall grass around the school. The first principal, Edwin Lathrope, was hired at a salary of \$40 per month.

In this year of 1857 the first grain elevator was built by James C. Spencer and he began to ship grain. In 1862 McWilliams Bros. broke ground, and laid the foundation of a large warehouse for grain on the east side, near the depot. Work had to be halted because of the War between the States, and in 1864 Joseph McPherson completed the warehouse. It was known as the "Big Warehouse" with a capacity of 60,000 bush-

This page donated by Atern and Atern, and by Charlotte's Fashion Shop

els and it was operated for years by E. L. Gooding. In 1866 C. S. Newell and John Campbell built an elevator a little north of McPherson's. It later changed hands and was operated by Eugene R. Stevens and John Thompson. In 1868 C. S. Newell and J. G. Strong built another elevator still farther north. This was successfully operated by J. G. Strong, Hugh Thompson, and Jesse Deffenbaugh, under the name of Strong & Co. This was the first elevator to use steam power from an engine costing \$1,000. It also furnished power for the elevator of Stevens and Thompson next to it. In 1873, Cadwallader and Rhodes built an elevator on the east side, a little south of the Round House, at a cost of about \$1,000, with a capacity of 17,000 bushels. Walter Bladen also put up one a little north of Cadwallader in this year with a capacity of 12,000 bushels, operated by Hahn and Kime. There was also a tub and pail factory operated by W. H. Conrad.

The first building for the Methodist Church was built in 1858 under the Rev. O. W. Pollard. It was dedicated that same year with the Rev. Dr. Kidder of Evanston. This church was lengthened in 1862, and in 1867 a new \$16,000 structure was built to seat 500, the membership then be-

ing 260. The present Methodist Church was built in 1901.

Also in 1858 the Dwight Cemetery on the near south side was laid out by a committee consisting of R. P. Morgan, Jr., Nelson Cornell, and Henry P. Conant. Mr. Conant was buried there in September of the same year. In this year there came to Dwight Capt. Joseph Rockwell, a native of Connecticut, and a wagon maker by trade. He made the first wagon in Dwight, and also the first loom, for his wife. In 1880 the Dwight wagon was being made in Dwight by Waters and Hartmann, in a building where Boyer's Garage now stands.

The McDowell cemetery was founded on March 19, 1859. Miss Margaretta McDowell, sister of the Major, and his housekeeper up to this time, died, and she had requested that she be buried "in a specified spot on a certain knoll near the creek on my brother Thomas' land." In 1859 Dwight was for a time cut off from all mail service, communication and railroad service. A quarrel developed between Governor Mattison under his lease of the Chicago and Mississippi railroad and Hamilton Spencer and the bond holders of the railroad. The difficulty ended with the rail-



A very early picture of Dwight's West Main Street, showing the Cornell House on the corner and a congregation of gentlemen down the street

This page donated by Dwight Post 486, The American Legion

road passing into the hands of the bond holders. After that it became known as the Chicago and Alton R.R.

In 1860 an event occurred which gave Dwight national prominence. James C. Spencer owned a hunting lodge and other cabins on his farm near the north side of Dwight. He had acquired this land around 1853. He would come out here from Chicago to hunt. In 1860 Mr. P. E. Miller lived on the farm. When prominent Chicago people heard that the Prince of Wales, traveling incognito under the name Lord Renfrew, was coming to this country and wanted places to hunt, these people asked Mr. Spencer to provide the same at his hunting lodge here. He did so very reluctantly for there was feeling, especially among the Irish, against English royalty. Finally Mr. Spencer agreed and sent his sister out here to his hunting lodge to get things ready for the Prince and his entourage. All furniture was removed from the hunting lodge, and new furniture put in its place which had been shipped ahead. On Saturday, September 22, 1860, around 6:00 p. m. the Prince's group arrived on the train. There was no large crowd on hand to give him a royal welcome. But there was a man from Pontiac on hand who made a short uncalled for speech which told the Prince to go to a place much hotter than Dwight. The group soon went out to the Spencer lodge. Here the Prince asked for his gun with some vehemence, and went out to shoot something. He came back with a screech owl.

His entourage could not all be quartered at the lodge so some had to stay at one of the cabins. In one of these lived a school teacher and his wife, who had not heard too much about the Prince's arrival. When Spencer took the servants over to this cabin from the lodge, the Prince offered to go along to hold the lantern. The teacher and his wife began to discuss the Prince's arrival, but they did not know that the Prince was even then there among them. The Prince soon went outside and got a big laugh out of this. On Sunday the group attended church services at the local Presbyterian Church, and he later made a donation of 50 pounds to this church. That week he was taken hunting, and as a precautionary measure, several of the group would walk about 100 yards ahead and some about 100 yards behind. Spencer was constantly afraid that some-

one might get shot, but he later remarked that the Prince was a remarkably good shot. He later presented Mr. Spencer with a fine manton gun. Hunting that week in Round Grove along a creek, they came upon a flock of mallard ducks. They shot into the group. It turned out that the ducks were tame ones belonging to a Mrs. Eunice Pratt. She came down to the creek and gave them a tongue lashing as they had never had before.

That week the group was also entertained at the home of Col. Morgan which was located where the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Wolf now stands. He gave the Colonel a gift of gold shirt buttons, sleeve buttons, and vest buttons. Also a pair of crystal candelabra which are now on permanent exhibit at the museum of the Chicago Historical Society. The Prince loved to be called Baron Renfrew and the Spencer lodge was later called Renfrew Lodge and the Prince of Wales farm. This farm was bought by David McWilliams in 1891. The Prince later became Edward VII, King of England.

In this year, 1860 also the Mt. Olivet Catholic cemetery was layed out and many Catholics from surrounding towns were later buried there. The next year St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was built on land given by R. P. Morgan, Jr., at Mazon and Washington streets. The church building was damaged by a windstorm in that year, 1861. It was then rebuilt and completed in 1862. The first priest was the Reverend Father Lonergan. The present new church was built in 1895.

The war clouds of the War between the States loomed at this time. On September 8, 1862 Samuel T. Wakley organized Co. B in answer to "Father Abraham's" call for 600,000 volunteers. Co. B was mustered into the 129th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry at Pontiac. Dwight was the 13th city in Illinois to respond. On March 1 of 1862 the Masonic Fraternity was organized and Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church was started here in the home of Simon Winkler.

The Union League was being organized at this time, and also Dwight organized a group in 1863. It was for charitable purposes, and to help the Republican party. There were over 200 members in Dwight, and 1,000 in the county. S. T. K. Prime became president. This was the first known public office for Mr. Prime. He later be-

This page donated by The Blackstone Theatre

came the great champion of soil conservation, hard roads for farmers, and raising the prices of farm products to the farmer by eliminating the middle man. Such ideas eventually led to farm co-ops. He wrote a book on proper farming methods.

On June 5th, the Ladies Loyal League was organized. Its objectives were to raise funds for soldiers' hospitals, and to improve sanitary conditions for the soldiers of the Civil War. This was probably motivated by another lady from another Illinois town. Sister Mary Ann Bickerdyke of Galesburg set out on a national scale to do the same thing. The local Ladies Loyal League bought a cow and sent it to a hospital in Springfield, and later sent butter and vegetables. In this year, 1863, Round Grove cemetery was laid out by a committee consisting of A. Z. Taylor, Cyrus Thomas, and Edwin Lathrope.

In 1864 larger quarters were needed at the east side school, and a 26 x 28 addition was built on.

May 3, 1865, was another important date for

Dwight, although a sad one. Ex-president Lincoln's body was brought here at 2:00 a. m. Some people waited all night and the town was draped in mourning. Some of the escorts recognized Dwight as the town where the Prince of Wales and his retinue had been entertained.

Also in 1865 Dr. Harmon Thole began his practice here. Rev. Franz Schmitt, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Goodfarm, began to serve the Lutherans in Dwight. As a result Emmanuel Lutheran Church was organized in 1867, and the first church building was built. Rev. Carl Schliepsiek replaced the Rev. Schmitt late in 1867. Emmanuel's second church was built in 1895 under the Rev. G. Westerkamp when Mr. G. M. Hahn donated \$1,000. Fred Steffan built the church for \$14,000. In 1913 the Rev. M. Mueller came from Marena, Okla., and began a pastorate which was to last for 39 years until August, 1952.

On December 1, 1865, the Congregational Church was organized in Gerson's Hall with the Rev. J. A. Montgomery in charge. In January,



The Dwight Ice Cream Parlor with proprietors Mr. Joe Migliarini, left, and Mr. Fred Sodini, standing in front. The business was started in March 1910, and was in operation until January 1946.

This page donated by Buzzing B's, C & M Oil Co., Christiansen Service Shop, and Jack Costello

1868 an elegant church was dedicated free from debt. The total cost was \$5,125. In 1873 there was a flourishing Sunday School of about 150 members, and in that year the local Presbyterian Church merged with the Congregational. In 1909 the present church was erected at a cost of \$25,000.

1866 brought to Dwight a man whose influence was to carry its name to the whole civilized world. This man was Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, who soon became surgeon for the C & A R. R. Dr. Keeley's bi-chloride of gold treatment, also known as the Keeley Cure, and still later as the Keeley treatment, was to cure thousands of alcoholics, drug addicts, and heavy smokers. A Mr. Fred B. Hargreaves was State Lecturer of the Illinois Temperance League. He and Dr. Keeley both heard of the drug about the same time. Dr. Keeley worked on it, experimenting on patients at various places, and finally with Mr. J. R. Oughton as chemist, perfected the formula.

In 1866 also, Mr. Isaac M. Baker began his furniture and undertaking business in a brick building which he had erected, and where the Baker Furniture Store is today, operated by James Baker, the great-grandson of the founder.

Capt. John Borden Baker, M. D. located in Dwight in 1867. He later married Josephine Thompson. He worked during the small pox epidemic. The next year another medical doctor located here, Dr. C. O. Chalfant. On May 5th, 1868, on the rear of Charlie Palmer's cigar shop, the first issue of a weekly newspaper came off the presses, four pages, 6 x 9 inches, and thus the Dwight Star was born. On June 5th. of the same year, there appeared the Dwight Courier. On August 20th this newspaper was taken over by J. Rutan, but nothing more is heard of it. The Star continued to be published and on October 7th, 1869, it was enlarged to four columns, four pages, and lengthened to 8 x 13 inches. Gradually it was enlarged still more, eight changes in all. In 1888 the name was changed to "The Dwight North Star." By April 4th, 1879, there was another newspaper, called the "Dwight Commercial" published by C. M. Cyrus. In 1889, L. D. Plummer, foreman of the "North Star" started the "Dwight Herald." A number of citizens did not relish the change in name of the "Star" to the "North Star" and they requested Mr. Plum-

mer to change the name of the "Herald" to the "Dwight Star and Herald." In 1891 William G. Dustin bought a half interest in the newspaper, becoming editor and part owner. Mr. Dustin became sole owner in 1905. In 1892 the "North Star" was moved to Odell. In November, 1905, an interest in the "Dwight Star and Herald" was purchased by Allan S. Holbrook of Newport, Vermont, who then moved here with his family and became quite an active citizen. In 1928, A. R. Tock, long-time member of the papers staff, bought the remainder of the interest. Following his death in 1953, the management of the paper was continued by his widow and son.

In 1869 Mr. L. G. Pearre was admitted to the bar, and hung out his shingle as an attorney here. Work was started on the western branch of the C & A R. R. and the railroad round house was built. Also that year marked the first great fire. Fourteen buildings were destroyed at Mazon and Franklin streets.

The Dwight Temperance Union came into being in 1870. A new two story brick school was built on the west side on ground presented by James Strong "for perpetual use as a school." This building cost \$5,000 and here Dwight High School was begun around 1876. In 1870 there was the first city election: Charles S. Newell was elected president with the following board members: J. H. Hagerty, R. C. Adams, W. S. Sims, L. F. Slyder, and G. M. Hahn.

In 1871 the grain dealers of town shipped 131,000 bushels of corn and oats. Many citizens went to see the ruins of the great Chicago Fire, and contributions of money, food and clothing were sent for the victims. The Dwight Renfrews baseball team was organized and played other towns. The McWilliams wooden bank building was destroyed by fire.

On July 24, 1872 the town was organized under the general laws for villages of Illinois, and a vote was taken to levy a tax not to exceed \$2,000 for digging an artesian well. Dr. J. Payne opened a dental office. Col J. B. Parsons received the first carload of anthracite coal shipped to town. Burwin Losee was killed by a run-away team of horses while sitting on the porch in front of the McWilliams and Judd store. During Christmas week corn brought 19c per bushel. The Grangers

This page donated by The Dutch Kitchen, Dwight Fire Co., and Klingler's Jewelry



Mr. Jeppa Jebser Jebson's Blacksmith Shop which was located on the ground now occupied by Frank Zappa's Store.

movement was at its height but was not successful in disposing of the middle-man.

"Where saloons exist, jails become an absolute necessity." In October 1873 the town marshal was bought a pair of handcuffs, a policeman's belt and club, and plans were made to build a calaboose. On May 22 of the same year the I.O. O.F. was organized here.

On June 20, 1874 the Dwight Guards were formed. John Thompson was elected town treasurer to perform all duties on his own proposition for an annual salary of five cents. The temperance party won the city election. This party was so taken by surprise that it was in no position to carry out the duties. The newly elected trustees found themselves in the pitiable plight of being compelled to attempt to force on the people not only what they did not want, but, moreover, what they were determined not to have. The voters had merely taken revenge on some prominent leaders of the "license cause," meaning licensed saloons. The officers of the Dwight Guards were: J. B. Parsons, captain; S. H. Kenney, 1st Lieut., S. H. Witt, 2nd Lieut.

On August 4, 1874, a military picnic and fireman's tournament was held. This is the first

mention made of a fire department. The Catholic Total Abstinence Society held a parade. The Military Cornet Band, and Amateur Minstrels gave an entertainment. This was also the beginning of a cultural period during which operetta, music, poetry, and similar arts flourished.

The Town Board established the Good Will Fire Company and the Hook, Ladder, and Truck Company in 1875. Dwight had as many lawyers as preachers, one for each 350 people. The bar was represented in Dwight by the following: L. G. Pearre, R. S. Mellduff, J. I. Dunlap, W. H. Bradbury, F. B. Hargreaves, Lewis Kenyon, J. G. Strong, and F. E. Peck. Of this group, Hon. J. G. Strong has represented his district in both branches of the State Legislature. The Evangelical Church was completed and dedicated in late spring. The Baptist hall was sold, so evidently this church did not thrive here. H. A. Kenyon, postmaster, began to publish the "Western Postal Review." The Good Templars were organized.

On March 22, 1876 the first Danish Lutheran services were held in a building near where Christopher's garage now stands. Their first church was built the same year at a cost of \$180

This page donated by George's Service, Gibbon's Grain Co., and Hahn's Tavern

with the members furnishing much of the material. In 1879 the first Danish summer school was held between Dwight and Gardner. In 1892 the Danish Sunday School was begun and in 1923 Bishop Ostenfeld and his wife of Denmark visited here. In 1917 the new St. Peter's Lutheran Church was built at a cost of \$13,000. On August 15, 1876, the 10th Batt. Ill. National Guards was organized under Col. J. B. Parsons and Dwight became military headquarters for this unit. Dr. William L. Rabe, M. D. began his practice here, and remained until 1913. In this year also a druggist permit was issued to C. M. Baker and George A. Seymour. Also the Methodist Church gave a Centennial Tea party commemorating the 100th birthday of the United States. Kepplinger's large building was completed, and the hall was dedicated to the public. Edward McWilliams took charge of Prime Academy.

Another serious fire occurred in 1877 when the building of L. D. Rutan burned. It was occupied by Gahagen Bros. Also destroyed were the millinery of Mrs. H. Cornell, the Clifton Hotel, occupied by O. Lee, and other wooden structures. The Dwight Guards were changed to Parsons' Guards. There was now the Dwight Fire Company, and the Renfrew Hose, Hook, and Ladder company. Oaklawn cemetery association was formed this year with H. A. Kenyon, president, Salem Evangelical Church, four miles north was dedicated. The Dwight Reform Club was organized with Eugene Baker, president; D. McWilliams, treasurer. More than 800 signed a temperance pledge. This club also established a library and reading room. An anti-tobacco society was formed with Rev. E. F. Hall, president, and S. M. Witt, vice president.

An iron bridge spanning the creek near the school was built in 1878. The Red Ribbon club was organized for skillful musicians, poets, able writers of prose, amateur dramatists and actors, accomplished readers and entertaining speakers. This cultural group played no small role in the history of the next years. This club later that year elected a detective committee for the purpose of prosecuting saloon keepers who sold to minors or those who were in an intoxicated condition. That year also the Exchange Bank, now Bank of Dwight, took possession of new quarters.

In 1879 prohibition, or no saloons, was voted by the town board, and enforced. No saloon licenses would be renewed, and old ones were cancelled. On Sunday morning, June 8th, a great fire destroyed the Deffenbaugh and Co. elevator, and every building from Hetzel's corner to Miller Bros. brick building. Total loss \$43,350. George Kepplinger started a new foundry. The Pinafore company visited Odell and Pontiac. S. T. K. Prime started his book "The Model Farmers and their Methods."

The first lamplighters for city streets were hired in 1880 at \$10 per month. In April of that year Dr. Leslie E. Keeley announced to the world that he had perfected a formula which would cure drunkenness. It was incorporated in April 1886, as Leslie E. Keeley Co. The building burned to the ground in 1901. Again more school room was needed. A room was rented in the Methodist Church. In 1886 still more room was needed and larger quarters were rented in the Presbyterian church. A bell weighing 304 lbs., costing \$122.20 was placed in the East school.

In 1881 the Keeley Co. began to ship its formula for drunkenness and opium habit to Australia. The Three-I railroad was built. Excursions to St. Bend, St. Joseph, Mich., and even Niagara Falls became common. This railroad carried Dr. Keeley's body on the switch engine to Oaklawn cemetery in 1900 because by reason of the deep snow drifts no hearse could get through. The team of the Spencer Haypress factory was used at the cemetery after a path had been opened.

In 1882 a pest house was authorized to control small pox. Dr. Milton Palm, who came the next year, vaccinated adults for 15c and children for 10c. 1882 also saw another great fire on West street. Philip Weicker was paid \$200 damages because it became necessary to dynamite his house to stop the fire. This fire destroyed Amos' Hotel, Spey's bakery, Kern's Building, Kern and Scott Grocery stock, the Koehler building, Dernbach's barber shop, and Geis' cigar shop. An Archery club was organized. The Dwight Renfrew baseball team played the Streator Reds. Eleven deaths occurred because of scarlet fever. The Good Templars disbanded. The National Fire Escape Co., was organized to introduce Dr. Payne's Fire escapes. The first toll telephone line to Pontiac was put into operation. This

This page donated by Harris Furniture Store, and Dwight Hiway Market



This shot was taken as William Jennings Bryan stopped in Dwight to deliver a campaign speech just north of the Alton Depot. There's a fine collection of surreys at the right side of the photo.

was just six years after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. In 1889 there were 88 telephones here.

Dr. Maurice B. Houston, M. D., located here in 1883. Bert Adams became cashier of the People's Bank. A. B. Dunlop organized the McDowell cemetery association. William Walker's planing mills were enlarged to manufacture Spencer hay presses. L. G. Pearre was killed in a collision of railroad trains. He was an attorney here. Charles L. Romberger, attorney, locates here.

Dr. Cyrus Harris Barr, M. D. came here in 1884. The Morgan Joint Co., was organized for putting on the market Col. Morgan's patented rail coupling. The Dwight Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle was formed with O. W. Pollard as President. That winter was the coldest known in these parts.

Mr. J. A. Spencer got a patent on his hay press invention in 1885, and started a factory to produce them. This factory burned down in March 17, 1913. On May 17, 1887, the headquarters post, No. 626, G.A.R. was formed here. On January 18, 1888, the Knights of Pythias, Hebron lodge, was organized. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War organized on July 16, 1889,

the first captain being Joseph K. Boffham. At this time there were quite a few cases of scarlet fever, and the town board in August ordered that the names of those thus afflicted be published in the Dwight Star. The Hagerty block was built, and the first stone sidewalks were laid around it.

In 1890 an ordinance was passed to regulate billard tables, liquors, animals in town, and misdemeanors. On October 31st of that year the O. E. S. was formed. The question of electric lights was first brought up that year, as was the question of sewers for the town. The following year, 1891, an ordinance was passed for arc lights, street lights, and sewers. H. E. Seigert signed a contract February 10, for a franchise to furnish electric power to the town. Dr. Oakshett took over the practice of Dr. Houston. 1891 started the great "boom" years brought on by the Keeley Company. National Keeley Clubs were organized. "The Banner of Gold," Keeley magazine, was being published. The population of the town increased by 700. David McWilliams purchased the "Prince of Wales" (James C. Spencer) farm. In May the Business Mens' Association was formed and this led to a meeting with officials of the C & A railroad in which it was agreed to build the

This page donated by Reeb Monument Works, Ray and Harry's Market, and Bruce Rearick

handsome new depot. On Saturday, October 10, the Kepplinger block burned. In the same year also a brass band was organized.

In 1892, on February 15th, the first national meeting of the Keeley League was held here. Dr. DeWitt Talmage of Brooklyn Tabernacle visited the Keeley Institute and spoke on April 20th. The Modern Woodmen organization was formed on September 24th. The sewer system was built in town. J. R. Oughton bought the Durston and Hinkey farms, 760 acres. Dr. Florence Thompson, dentist, began to practice here. The electric lights were turned on this year. Dr. W. L. Barnes began his dental practice. Frank L. Smith announced himself as a candidate for Circuit Clerk. Rev. R. Wilhelmssen organized the Danish M. E. Society and purchased the old Presbyterian church. A Cincinnati female baseball team played the Dwight Mens' team. Cincinnati won. Dr. Christopher Yates, veterinary surgeon, died in November.

In 1893, an ordinance was passed by the town board to limit the speed of trains through the business district to six miles per hour. J. R. Oughton's Gordon Setter dog, "Heather Lad," took first in every bench show in the U. S. during 1893-94. Eugene V. Debs, the labor leader, visited Spencer Eldredge here. Debs years later led the great railroad strike. Eugene Field, poet and journalist, visited here at the same time. On August 16th the first Dwight Gun club was organized with Mr. J. H. Oughton, president; C. V. Bower, secretary and treasurer. It was reorganized on January 6, 1934 and in 1944 Les Jepsen won the Grand American Handicap at Vandalia, Ohio. On December 21, 1945 the new Gun Club was organized. During 1894 the Dwight Cornet Band came into being under Prof. Evans.

Dr. M. Livingston, veterinarian, located here in 1895, as also did Dr. William E. Tate, dentist, and Dr. W. Fitzpatrick, M. D. On June 25th, the Dwight Cycle Club was organized to promote bicycling and also bike races in the Park on special days and holidays. On November 15, Charles Romberger and Frank L. Smith formed a partnership for Real Estate and Farm sales. On January 29th of that year, the local Rebekah lodge was instituted.

David McWilliams deeded Renfrew Park to the City in 1896. Because of unsanitary, crowded conditions, and because the city now had a popu-

lation of 2,255, it was voted to erect a new school building on the east side at a cost of \$18,000. Dr. Peter James Reynolds, M.D. began a practice here which lasted until 1947. Also that year came Dr. S. H. Potter, dentist, and W. H. Ketcham, attorney at law. The Dwight Commercial and Social Club came into being with S. T. K. Prime, president. Frank L. Smith was a candidate for Circuit Clerk. This was the start of his career in politics. The next year he was appointed Colonel on Governor Tanner's staff.

The Royal Neighbors were organized on April 16, 1897. Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, John R. Oughton, and Curtis J. Judd offered to build a water tower for the city, and it was dedicated on July 4, 1897. On September 11, the new east side school was dedicated. 1898 marked the Spanish-American War, and there was a call for volunteers. Dwight responded as usual. On September 30 the Tuesday Night Literary club was organized. Dr. E. R. Weart, dentist, entered his practice here. Dr. Keeley died in 1900.

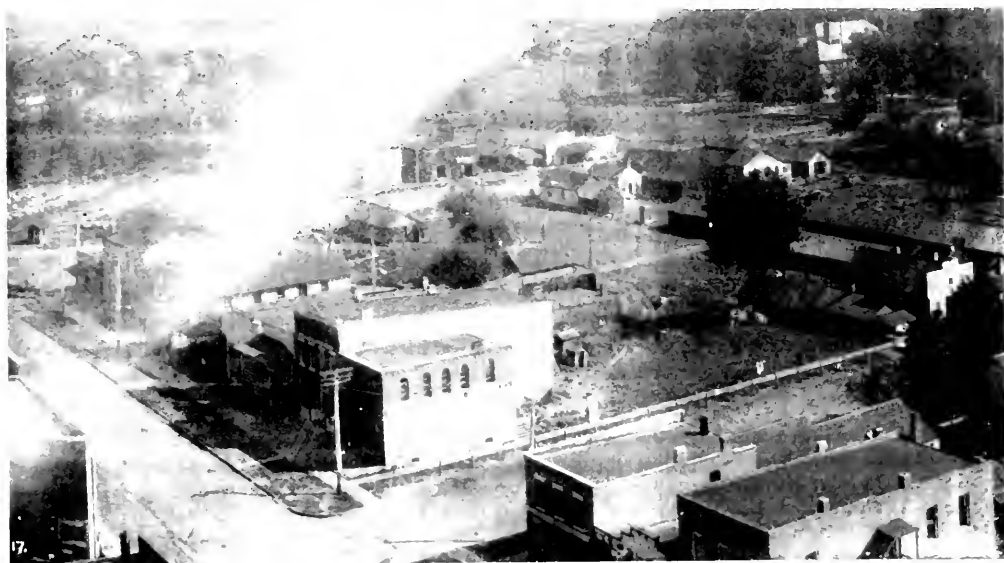
The village government officials in 1900 were George Baker, L. H. Martin, W. H. Ketcham, Simon Klitz, John Geis, L. A. Naffziger, C. V. Bower, Joe Miller, and Jens Knudsen. J. R. Oughton was village president. The baseball team that year consisted of: Johnston, 3b, Keeley, p, Ketcham, 1b, Smith, 2b, McCarter, ss, Brown, cf, Thompson, rf, Reeb, c, and Fox, lf. On October 26th, 1901, the Auxiliary No. 2 to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was brought into being. In 1901 there was an east side and a west side baseball team. Batteries for the west side were: Raisbeck, and Seabert. East side were: Ogg, and Sterret. In 1901 the Keeley buildings burned, including the laboratory and hotel. It was rebuilt later and this was taken over by the Government in 1919 and became the Veterans' Hospital. C. J. Ahern began his law practice here in 1903.

In March, 1904, the first streets were paved, namely Mazon, Franklin, Prairie, Chippewa, and East and West streets. The baseball team that year was: Metzke, Mickelson, Seabert, S. Kern, W. Smith, H. Morgan, Ed Reeb, J. Ketcham, K. Mickelson, M. Brown, and R. Brown. In 1905 cinder walks were prohibited. Mr. R. S. Ludington, attorney, moved to Dwight. On June 18, 1905, the Dwight Amateur Musical Club was organized through the efforts of Mrs. David Mc-

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This scene from the water tower shows part of West Main St. In the distance are the Methodist and Catholic churches. While the streets appear well-paved in this photo, the lack of horseless-carriages makes it reasonable to assume the gasoline engine era had not yet arrived in Dwight. In fact, there is an alarming scarcity of life on the streets, except (if you will grab your magnifying glass) for the lone presence of a cigar store Indian in front of the news depot at the far southeast end of the street.



Another photo from the water tower showing Franklin St. in younger days.

This page donated by The Village of Dwight

Williams, and Miss Nellie McWilliams, who, musicians themselves, had a desire to promote a club to which music lovers of our community who wished, could belong. On June 7, 1905, the First National Bank of Dwight was organized by Col. Frank L. Smith, John R. Oughton, Major Curtis J. Judd, Charles L. Romberger, Joe Miller and R. S. Ludington. The stone building still standing and the furnishings and fixtures were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, well known architect. Mr. William Scully also died this year. The Bloomington, Pontiac and Joliet electric train line was issued a permit to come through Dwight.

In April, 1907, there was a train wreck south of the depot. Early in the morning a loaded coal train hit a switch engine. The engineer of the train, George Goodman, and a Mr. Brown were killed. On August 4th, there was a wreck on the interurban north of Cayuga. The baseball team had played in Pontiac, and on the way back two interurban cars, both coming back to Dwight, collided. Killed were one of the players, Robert Orr, Dwight, and a passenger by the name of Cleary from Odell. Injured was James McConnell, and Frank Geis. On October 22nd of that year the Detroit Tigers, American League Champions, going to their farm club at Springfield, stopped off here to play the Frank L. Smith team. On the Dwight team was Cutshaw, Reel, Smith, Donlin, Gleghorn, Higgins, Phillips, M. Brown, and R. Brown. The umpires were very much biased for Dwight, and Ty Cobb got a big kick out of putting a man out at first and having the umpires call him safe. On December 29, 1907, the Dwight Council, Knights of Columbus, was organized.

On April 8th, 1908, the Pythian Sisters were organized. Around this time the first bowling alley was located in Dwight in the building where the Smith garage now is on Mazon and Franklin streets. In 1911 the new West Side school was erected at a cost of \$11,000. An addition had to be built on in 1914. This is known as the Richard Price Morgan school.

On April 21, 1912, a tornado struck Dwight and destroyed buildings on the Kern and Sorensen farms. On Nov. 24th, 1913, the Dwight Country Club was organized with Col. Frank L. Smith as president. In 1913 Mr. C. Brothers became principal of the High School and served for 39

years until 1948. Dr. Floyd Dondanville, M. D. began his practice here. This year also the Spencer Hay Press factory burned on March 17. In 1914, on January 8th, the Dwight Household Science Club was formed, later the Home Bureau. On October 6th, the Dwight Woman's Club came into being with Mrs. Frank L. Smith as President. In 1916 the Oakline Household Science Club was organized, its name coming from the telephone line which runs west out of the city. On May 4th, 1917, at 3:00 p.m. the new Odd Fellows Hall was dedicated. The Red Cross was organized as a County organization in Pontiac on May 24th and the local Woman's Club started a Red Cross chapter here the same year. In 1918 Col. Smith was elected to the United States Congress to succeed the incumbent Congressman, the Hon. John H. Sterling, who was killed in an auto accident after having received the nomination.

The Veterans Administration Hospital was begun here in 1919 when the Keeley buildings were leased for a period of five years. Up until 1922 it was operated under the Public Health Service. Soon after 1922 the Government bought the buildings. Mr. L. Burton Orr, attorney, resumed practice here in 1919.

The local Girl Scouts began to meet in 1919 under the leadership of Mrs. Lester Reeb, but then soon disbanded until reorganized in 1937. On August 20, 1920, the American Legion was formed and on November 10th, the American Legion Auxiliary. In 1921, Dr. Joseph Burns, dentist, located here. Also in 1921, the Illinois Bell Telephone company bought out the Central Union Telephone company here.

The Woman's Club set out in 1922 to honor the dead from World War I, and dedicated a tree to each departed comrade in Alton Park by the depot. These so honored were Miss Pearl Ely, Albert Tunberg, Everett Davis, Chris Beck and Frank Sopher. In 1922 the Keeley Buildings were sold to the U. S. Government for the V. A. Hospital, and the west park was granted for recreational purposes for the patients. In 1923 the Christian Science Society was started here. That year also the Boy Scout movement was begun here in the basement of the Methodist Church. In 1924 the Woman's Club was given permission to start a public library building.

In 1926 a new fire pumper was purchased and

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in 1930 the farmers were given protection also by paying a fee. That year another pumper was purchased. On October 12, 1926, the Public Library was opened. In October of that year the Dwight Junior Womans' Club was organized. In this year also Col. Frank L. Smith was elected to the United States Senate, however, the next year his seat was contested, and he was denied a seat.

The Bush Hatchery was begun in a small way by Lloyd Bush in 1929. This year also the State Reformatory for Women was being built, and the first commitment at Oakdale was received on Nov. 24th, 1930. In 1930 the 4-H Club was organized locally, and the Band Parents' organization came into being under Mr. Tucker Drew. In 1930 Dr. Edward Joss, M. D., began to practice here. In 1932 Dr. H. J. Reigel, dentist, came here. On June 29th, 1932, the V. F. W. was organized and this organization completed a new meeting hall in June of 1951. In 1932 Col. Frank L. Smith became Republican National Committeeman from Illinois, and held this position for four years. In 1934 the P.T.A. was organized. In 1933, C. J. Ahern, Jr., began his practice of law here, after his graduation from the University of Michigan and Dartmouth.

On August 1, 1935, tragedy struck in Dwight when four masked bandits attempted a hold-up at the Keeley company, and shot Mr. J. H. Oughton through the temple. He died at 1:30 that afternoon. The bandits were never apprehended. In 1936 Dr. Andrew McGee, M. D. began his medical practice. Also in 1936, the first class of the Gray Ladies was graduated at the local VA hospital and the Gray Lady service was begun. On December 15, 1936 Carl Christopher was killed in a plane crash at Salt Lake City, Utah. His body was not recovered from under the snow until July 16, 1937.

During World War II, in 1942, the Dwight Service Mothers' Club was formed with Mrs. J. H. Oughton, Sr., as president, Mrs. Edward Cleary, vice president, and Mrs. Otto Mickelson, secretary and treasurer. The objective was to help care for servicemen who stopped off at the Santa Fe depot in Sreator.

On December 23rd, 1947, the Dwight Lions Club was organized. It has staged the annual Easter Egg hunt, encouraged high school athletics, and the summer recreational program. On

New Year's Eve, December 31st, 1949, the Lion's Club donated a new Hammond organ to the High School Gym. Clarence Roeder was the first president of the Lion's Club, and Frank L. Beiswanger was the first secretary, with Ralph Sodini the treasurer. On December 4th, 1948 the Dwight Chapter of S. P. E. B. S. Q. S. A. (Barbershoppers) was organized here by John Tock, Bob Perschnick, Lou Weicker and Wilfred Coe. On August 30, 1950, Col. Frank L. Smith died. The Dwight Camera Club was started in 1952 under the leadership of Clarence Smith, Gordon Fenner, and Arthur Clausen. During 1953 Dwight was represented in national wrestling by "Bull" Allen, who appeared on the Chicago television card quite regularly.

The Dwight Centennial was observed from August 15 to 22, 1954. The chairman of the Centennial Committee was Ed Dicker. The Centennial Banquet was held on June 3rd.

History of Dwight Churches

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church of Dwight has a varied history. It is one of the oldest parishes in the Diocese of Peoria and has had as outmissions at different times, the parishes of Odell, Pontiac, Flanagan, Kinsman, Ransom, Campus and Sunbury.

The early settlers drove miles to attend services, then from 1858 to 1862, priests from Wilmington and Bourbonnais came and Mass was celebrated in the homes and later in the east side schoolhouse. At that time there were only twelve families.

In 1861 more Catholic families had come to Dwight and the group decided to build a church. Col. Richard P. Morgan, one of the founders of our village, donated ground on Mazon and Washington streets and construction was begun. Before it was completed though, a heavy windstorm swept it from its foundation. Being undaunted, work was again resumed and the church was completed in 1862. Sunday Mass was celebrated by visiting priests, one being the Rev. Father Lonergan.

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The congregation continued to grow and to warrant a resident pastor so in 1868 Rev. Lawrence Dunn was appointed pastor by the Archbishop of Chicago. Father Dunn immediately built a rectory opposite the church. He remained here until December, 1869, when he was succeeded by the Rev. M. J. Hanly, who served till September 1877.

In October, 1877, the Rev. James Halpin came and was the first pastor to serve in St. Patrick's after its inclusion in the new Diocese of Peoria, under the leadership of the Most Rev. John Lancaster Spalding, D.D. Father Halpin labored zealously among his parishioners and was active in civic affairs of those early days until his transfer to Odell in 1882. During his pastorate at Odell, he was called to his reward and is buried in St. Paul's cemetery, Odell.

The next six years the parish was served by Father Recouvier, 1882-1884; Father Alfred Belanger, C.S.V., 1884-85; Father J. B. Hedges, 1885-1888. Rev. F. B. Moore came in 1888 and

the attendance had steadily increased until "The Little White Church" could no longer accommodate the congregation. It was decided to erect a new church and work was started in 1895 on the present site, during the pastorate of Father Moore who worked diligently for its completion.

In July, 1896, Rev. M. P. O'Brien was appointed pastor and the church was completed and dedicated. During Fr. O'Brien's residence in Dwight, he built St. Bernard's Church at Sunbury, 10 miles west of Dwight, which was an out-mission to Dwight. Both churches were cleared of debt and in 1901 Fr. O'Brien was transferred to Sunbury when it was made a separate parish. He later died there and is buried in Mt. Olivet cemetery, Dwight.

Rev. James J. Egan was pastor from 1901-1907 and during his pastorate, the present rectory was built and a pipe organ was installed in the church.

The Rev. John F. Power came to Dwight in October, 1907. During his pastorate, an addition was made to the east side of the church afford-



This picture shows the Ohlendorf Bakery in 1911 when it was located on West Main Street. Seated on the step is Herman Ohlendorf, standing are John Ehlan, John Telfer, Mrs. Gus Ohlendorf, Mr. Gus Ohlendorf, Charley (last name unknown), Mrs. Dixie Sorensen (Lillie Andersen) and Hertha Ehlan, now Mrs. Joost of California.

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ing more room for the ever increasing congregation. While in Chicago on a business trip, he was stricken and died at Mercy Hospital, March 15, 1916.

The Rev. J. P. Parker was then assigned to Dwight and remained until August, 1923 when he was appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception church in Streator, where he died suddenly in March, 1931. While in Dwight, he endeared himself to his congregation and was active in community affairs. The aged and sick were sorry to see him leave for they missed his friendly calls.

The Rev. John W. Cummings, D.D., succeeded Fr. Parker. He supervised improvements in the church and rectory. His untimely death, May 15, 1928 ended a pastorate that brought great spiritual growth to the parish.

Rev. Thomas J. Timmons was appointed pastor, May 17, 1928, coming from Watseka, where he had served for many years. During his residence here Fr. Timmons endeared himself not only to his congregation but to the entire community by his friendliness, his sociability and his keen interest in civic affairs. When his sudden death occurred May 15, 1940, young and old alike mourned the passing of a really true friend.

During his pastorate the Catholic Youth organization was organized. He was chaplain of the Veterans Administration Hospital and of the Illinois State Reformatory for Women. Funeral services were held for Fr. Timmons at St. Patrick's with Right Reverend J. H. Schlarman, Bishop of Peoria, officiating. Burial was in the family lot in the Catholic cemetery at Seneca.

Rev. M. A. Tracy, our present pastor, came to Dwight on February 20, 1940 following the death of Fr. Timmons, and has made many improvements in our church and rectory.

Among the early Dwight settlers of the Catholic faith were: Mr. and Mrs. William Kelagher, Mr. and Mrs. John Ahern, Mrs. Jacob Christman, James West, Sr., John Little, John Dennehee, Patrick Byrnes, Austin Gibbons, Peter Heinen, the Perry, Doherty, Hurley, Fay, Sands, Hagerty and Dixon families, Mrs. Margaret Longe, Mrs. Kane, Nickolas Morrissey and the Tom Kelly family.

Organizations affiliated with the church:

Altar and Rosary Society, whose special duty is care of the Sanctuary and church. It dates back

to the founding of the parish.

Ancient Order of Hibernians, was organized in Dwight in 1894. Officers were John Dennehee, James West, Thomas Dennehee, Lawrence Fay, William West, David Coughlin and Daniel Hurley, Sr.

Catholic Ladies Aid, was an organization whose main objective was care of the needy, sick and aged, regardless of religious views. Their annual bazaar and supper was looked forward to each year.

Mount Olivet Cemetery Guild, was organized during the pastorate of Father Powers. This was a group of ladies whose object was to care for and beautify God's acre.

Knights of Columbus, is an organization of Catholic men with many varied objectives and promoting good will among neighbors.

Senior Catholic Daughters of America, a National Catholic Woman's organization, was organized in Dwight, April 8, 1945 with fifty charter members. The goals of this organization are for spiritual and intellectual improvements of its members and giving aid to charitable, religious and benevolent purposes.

Junior Catholic Daughters of America, a youth organization, sponsored by the Senior CDA, was organized on February 1, 1948. The program followed is to give Catholic girls a well rounded youth program under Catholic leadership.

The Catholic Church down through the years has had many of their sons serve their country during the wars. The writer can give no record of those who served during the Civil War. In World War I, there were about 45 and in World War II, there were more than 100. In this year of 1954, our boys are still being called.

Presbyterian Church

A church society was organized in 1856, three men, and 5 women constituted the membership. Their first meeting place of worship, was in the little school house, 16x24, which stood about fifteen rods from the David McWilliams home and continued meeting there until the next year, when their church was erected on lots donated by James C. Spencer and R. P. Morgan, and cost \$2,620.

The pulpit was filled by various ministers ir-

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regularly until 1869 when Rev. L. F. Walker was called to take charge. In the fall of 1871 he was succeeded by Rev. W. L. Boyd, who filled the pulpit until 1873.

Elders of the church were: Hugh Thompson, Robert Thompson, James George, James Paul, and John G. George.

The church was progressive and many historical events took place. One of the high lights was on September 23, 1860 the morning after the arrival of the Prince of Wales, he and his entire party accompanied their host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Spencer to church.

To the surprise of all, the pastor, Rev. Young, prayed for the Queen of England and the royal family, which was considered Christian and hospitable, and no doubt, gave the Prince a pleasant home feeling. In no other way was the presence of royalty and high nobility noticed in that simple "meeting house," on the edge of the great prairie.

After service all passed out of the church quietly, no staring, no delay. Mr. Spencer was always proud of the behavior of his neighbors on that occasion, so unlike that of fashionable New York a short time later, the worshippers almost mobbed the young Prince in Old Trinity. A part of the choir on that memorable day, was Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. Case and daughter and Dr. Haggerty.

The Prince was much pleased with the service and in consequence, made a donation to the church of 50 pounds. Reports from some of the older folks say, that he also gave a beautiful chandelier which was later hung in the church. Although there has been some antique dealers making inquiries, there doesn't seem to be any known record of it.

In 1883 the ladies society was organized. Mrs. S. T. K. Prime, president, Mrs. James Paul, secretary, and Mrs. J. C. Lewis, treasurer.

Many entertainments were given through the years. On the fourth of July 1880, the church members gave a festival entitled, "Pinafore," seemingly it was a big success as they were invited to come to Odell and Pontiac and put on the play.

Some time later they gave a Gypsy operetta. Also an entertainment, the principle feature was the "Broom Brigade."

The Presbyterian Church also served other purposes. At one time the Keeley League held their religious services there.

In 1880 when the town was growing so rapidly, the school board of directors was obliged to rent a room in the Methodist Church, for one primary grade, up to the fall of 1886, when a larger and more commodious, better lighted room was secured in the Presbyterian Church.

From 1873 until 1892 the following ministers served: Rev. Hargraves, Hill, Walker, Scott, Leenhouse, and Rev. Dr. Rabe became a resident of Dwight in 1875 and took charge of the Union Presbyterian Church. In 1880 it was he who installed Rev. Hill as pastor and delivered the charge.

In 1892 the property was sold through S. T. K. Prime to Rev. R. Wilheluisen, a progressive Danish minister, who organized the Danish Methodist Church and which was active until December 1924, when it was sold to the Christian Science Church.

First Methodist Church of Dwight

The early settlers in this community (our forefathers) were men of foresight, serious minded and progressive.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1855.

The first gathering for worship was in the house of Nelson Cornell. Later worship was held either in a log school-house on Mazon Creek or in the barn of Eber Steven's farm which was near the village.

The first public religious services in this town were in a building occupied by J. J. Gore. It was used before the building was really finished and thirty-seven (37) persons attended this first Sunday School May 15, 1855. The following are all the names of those present that we are able to ascertain: David McWilliams, Sec'y., John Conant, Mrs. Conant, Samuel Cutler, Mrs. Cutler, Henry Conant, Miss Meltina Earl, Henry and George Cutler, Robert Thompson and several members of his family, Simon Lutz, J. Travis, Augustus West, N. E. Lyman, Ashley Bentley.

The first sermon actually preached in the town was preached in a room over the store of David McWilliams on the second Sunday in June, 10th, 1855. In this room took place a formal organization composed of six people as follows:

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An early picture of the Dwight Methodist church when transportation was still being provided by four-footed means.

Simon Lutz, John Routzeng, Isaac Baker, Isabella Baker, David McWilliams and Jeremiah Travis.

Thus was the Methodist Episcopal denomination of religious worship established in Dwight.

The first sermon was preached by Rev. A. D. Field. This circuit was known as the Mazon circuit and embraced all that tract of country south of the Illinois River and extended from Morris to Avoca Township. Rev. Field preached a few times during the summer and at the next meeting of conference two ministers were appointed to the Mazon circuit and Dwight became one of the regular preaching places, having services every alternate Sunday in the schoolhouse, then just built.

In 1858 the first church building was dedicated and Dwight became a regular preaching point on what was then the Mazon Circuit. This church was located at Prairie Ave. and Wau-pansie streets.

By 1862 the church membership had grown to 188 members and had outgrown its house of worship and the original building was now lengthened twenty feet.

This same year Dwight became the head of a new circuit with a part time resident minister, the new circuit being struck off from the Mazon circuit, and Rev. O. W. Pollard appointed to the charge of Dwight, Odell and Pontiac. Rev. Pollard was a well beloved pastor. Under his pastorate the church progressed and expanded.

After nine years of worship in their first church it was decided to build a new one and in October 1867 a handsome, imposing church was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Eddy, then of Chicago. It was a handsomely finished edifice capable of seating 500 persons and the society numbered 260 members.

The Sunday School of this Society organized at an earlier date was at this time in a flourishing condition. Mr. David McWilliams was the first superintendent, a position he held for thirteen years.

In 1870 we note the departure of Rev. James Haney and the arrival of Rev. G. M. Irwin.

Also at this period we find a notation of a great Sunday School picnic at Round Grove participated in by all the Sunday Schools of the Townships, Dwight, Broughton, Round Grove and Union.

In 1873 Rev. R. G. Pearce was appointed to the pastorate of the Dwight M. E. Church.

In 1874 Rev. Pearce moved to Fairbury and Rev. M. V. B. White succeeded him.

In 1875 and '76 the M. E. Church made considerable repairs to their church at a cost of \$1800.00 and reopened with impressive services, Rev. Briggs, D. D. of Evanston, delivering the morning and evening services, assisted by Solomon Thatcher of Chicago.

In 1876 Rev. Havermale became pastor of the M. E. Church.

The churches all joined in Union meetings under the direction of C. M. Morton, Sec'y. of the Y.M.C.A. of Illinois. Rev. Longley, Havermale and DeLong, the regular pastors, protracted the meetings some nine weeks and as a result all the churches received valuable additions in membership.

At this period the temperance wave appeared. R. W. Crampton was engaged to deliver several temperance lectures. George Woodward of Pontiac visited our community and by his public appeals and personal efforts, succeeded in inducing 75 drinking men to reform.

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1878-1882 Rev. B. F. Tallman became pastor of the M. E. Church.

1881-1882 the M. E. Church built a new parsonage opposite Rev. Pollard's residence on Prairie Avenue.

David McWilliams was appointed delegate to represent the M. E. Church at the World Conference of churches in London, England, 1884-85.

1893 Rev. C. W. Ayling came to the Dwight pastorate.

1901—It was decided by the officials of the Methodist Church that a new edifice was needed, more modern in construction and equipment, to care for the ever increasing membership and the many other societies connected with the church. The old church was torn down and construction of the present handsome building commenced. On Sunday, April 6, 1902, a memorable one not only for the adherents of the Methodist Episcopal faith, but all Dwight people as well, this splendid building was dedicated to the worship of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Rev. W. R. Wiley, assisted by former pastors of the church took part in the dedication. The late Rev. A. R. Morgan was the resident pastor and it was due to his earnest untiring work that the new church was constructed.

A beautiful pipe organ was installed in the church a few years later, a gift from one of the devoted members of the church. Connected with the church is the large Sunday School of which Mr. Roy Baker was superintendent for sixteen years.

In 1889 the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized.

In 1890 Epworth League was organized.

In 1920 the Methodist Church entertained the Central Illinois Conference.

With the Union of Methodism in 1939 the work carried on by the Ladies Social Union and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was merged in the Woman's Society of Christian Service. The former Epworth League became the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The former Methodist Episcopal Church became the Methodist Church.

A Methodist Men's Fellowship was organized in 1943.

Rev. George Davies who was pastor of this church for ten years and still makes his home in Dwight is highly regarded by everyone in the

community and is the Pastor Emeritus of the Church.

Among the ministers since 1898 are: William Wooley, 1898; A. R. Morgan, 1900; R. B. Seaman, 1903; A. W. Lowther, 1905; W. A. Brown, 1910; George H. McClung, 1912; Joseph B. Chapman, 1917; John H. Ryan, 1920; George R. Davies, 1921; E. E. Atherton, 1931; C. F. W. Smith, 1935; V. H. Roberts, 1939; Robert C. Calderwood, 1944 and the present pastor, F. Roy Doland, 1949.

Nazarene Church

The Nazarene Church was organized August 1947 at a tent on Prairie Avenue. The meeting was held by Rev. Dean Star and Rev. Udell Moss.

The first pastor was Rev. George Psanti.

The church was built in the Spring of 1949 and was dedicated on August 8, 1949.

When organized there were eleven members. At present there are 18 members.

Christian Science Society

In 1857 the first church in Dwight was constructed for the people of the Presbyterian faith. About the year 1892 the Danish Norwegian Methodist organization bought the church and in 1924 it was sold to the Christian Science Society, the present owner.

Christian Science Society, Dwight, was formally organized in May, 1923, with seven charter members. However, persons interested in Christian Science had been meeting and holding services in private homes for many years prior to that date. Sunday School was conducted for many years, but as families moved from Dwight, the Sunday School was eventually discontinued.

The bell originally installed in the church steeple was sold to Mr. William McMeans, who presented it to the Congregational Church, where it is at present.

Although its membership is small, the Christian Science Society continues to hold regular Sunday services in the first church built in Dwight, located at the corner of Franklin and Seminole streets.

St. Peter's Evangelical Church

Danish

The first Danes arrived in Dwight around

This page donated by E. Moyemont and Sons, and John Nelson's Tavern

1860. They early united with a group of Norwegians of the same faith for religious services held by traveling missionaries and these were first held in Emmanuel Lutheran Church on East Mazon Avenue.

Rev. J. A. Hejberg came from Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago to hold services on Certain Sundays. On March 22, 1876 the Danish members decided to have their own meeting room, which was over Jake Smith's blacksmith shop, located near where Christopher's garage now stands. In this meeting St. Peter's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized. The first board was Peter J. Smith, president; Edlef Christensen, secretary; and S. A. Petersen, treasurer. Members were Hans Jessen Hansen, and Andrew Lydigsen.

On April 22, Rev. Hejberg again visited the congregation and after this service a constitution was adopted. The board was also given authority to buy a building lot. Rev. Rosenstand of Manistee, Mich., was invited to preach here when possible.

The two lots where the present church stands were soon purchased, and on June 3rd, it was decided to build a church 28x50 feet. Christ Scott and Mads Nielsen promised to erect the building for \$180 with the congregation buying the material. On July 28th, Rev. Rosenstand held the first services in the new church although it was not fully completed.

Rev. Rosenstand was called as pastor on a salary basis of \$580 per year. He came on April 22, 1877 and remained for one year. The next pastor was the Rev. Jacob Holm who accepted the call on a salary basis of \$400 yearly. He was to serve Dwight two Sundays of the month and one week day. The other two Sundays he was to serve St. Stephan's in Chicago. The first Danish Summer School was established in 1879 between Dwight and Gardner. Mr. K. C. Bodholdt was one of the teachers, and he later became a pastor here. When Rev. Holm left, he advised the congregation to secure the services of Rev. Th. Lyngby who was also to serve the congregation in Rankin and Gibson and this arrangement was continued until 1903.

Rev. and Mrs. Lyngby started a Saturday school for the children. In those days confirmands came for instructions two whole days each week for six months out of two successive years.

Rev. Lyngby left Dwight in 1882 in October and the congregation was without a pastor for more than a year. During this time Rev. Mortensen of Sheffield and Rev. P. C. Tranberg of Chicago filled the pulpit. In October 1883 Rev. L. Hansen accepted a call here. In 1887 Rev. Hansen left and Rev. N. P. Simonson came. He organized the Ladies Aid in the parsonage which was at that time located at 220 W. Chippewa Street.

Early in 1892 Rev. A. Becker came to the congregation. Under his pastorate the Sunday School was organized, and also the Young Peoples' Society. When it was decided to build a parsonage, Mr. S. A. Petersen promised a building lot, and \$440 toward the parsonage was soon subscribed. This is the residence at 316 W. Chippewa St. Following Rev. Becker came Rev. P. Lilleso, who remained until 1902. During his years of service a school house was built north of the church. When Rev. Lilleso left, Rev. Dan of Chicago and Rev. A. C. Kildegaard, a summer school teacher at Gardner, and in Dwight on Saturdays, conducted Sunday services. In April 1904 it was decided to build a steeple to the church and the Young Peoples' Society gave the church bell. Rev. A. Bodjerg came in 1903 but remained less than a year and he was followed by Rev. K. C. Bodholdt in 1905. In 1904 the church members living in Highland Township, Grundy County, formed a school association for the purpose of keeping up the Danish language and religious education for the younger generation. Rev. Bodholdt left in 1909 and in July Rev. N. V. Holm came. At this time it was decided that the congregation needed a larger parsonage. Two lots were purchased opposite the church for \$600. Mr. Peter Sondergaard was given the contract at a cost of \$4500. During this time the school house north of the church was enlarged and a teacher was hired. In 1912 Rev. Holm left and in September Rev. J. C. Aaberg came. The new church was built in 1917 by Carl Clausen, at a cost of \$13,000. In 1923 Bishop Ostenfeld and his wife from Denmark visited the congregation.

An English division was started in the Sunday School in 1918. There was one English service a month and confirmation instruction was alternately given in Danish and English every other year. Rev. Aaberg left in 1926 and Rev. Svend Kjaer came and served until 1937. During his ministry the Willing Workers Society and the

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Lutheran Brotherhood, which has since disbanded, was organized. Rev. F. O. Lund arrived in June 1938 and remained until April 4, 1943 when he left for duty as chaplain in the United States Army. Rev. Holger Strandskov accepted the call to the church and was installed on August 8, 1943 and served until October 1949. The congregation of St. Jacob's Evan. Lutheran Church of Gardner, which was served by the local pastors, discontinued service in January, 1945, and the members transferred here in 1946. One son of the congregation, Rev. Harold Riber, is serving as a missionary in India. The Rev. Marvin Nygaard, the present pastor, accepted a call to the congregation and was installed by Rev. Alfred Sorensen, District President, on January 22, 1950.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

In 1851 a group of German Lutheran immigrants from the province of Franconia, Bavaria, Germany, came to Chicago presumably to join four previous groups from Franconia who had gone to settle in the "thumb" area around Saginaw, Mich., in 1844. This group in 1851 coming to Chicago met the young pastor of First St. Paul Lutheran Church, the Rev. Henry Wunder. Rev. Wunder had just come from St. Louis evidently by way of the Michigan-Illinois canal opened in 1847. Probably impressed with the good land around Morris, he told these Franconian immigrants "Why go to grub stumps in the hills of Michigan. Go to Grundy county in Illinois, and have a crop the first year."

This group listened to Pastor Wunder, and started southwestward into Illinois instead of into Michigan. They had friends near Oswego and spent the first winter there. John Rancher and George Stephan Burger made a trip that fall to Grundy county and each bought a farm in Goodfarm township. Next spring the entire group migrated southward to Morris and across the Illinois river into what is now known as Goodfarm township. This became the "Goodfarm settlement." Here more bought land for \$1.50 per acre; or worked for the new Chicago and Mississippi railroad which was being built. When they had money they bought land. George Simantel bought eighty acres in 1852. Prominent names among this whole group were, John Rancher, George Stephan Burger, George Kepplinger, Mathias



The Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Mazon Ave. as it looked in 1895.

Liebig, Henry Burk, Leonard Hahn, John Christopher Krug, George Simantel, Lawrence Konrad, Jacob Fillman, Friedrich Fruehwirth, and Johann Fuchs. The courthouse records in Morris show that Rancher and Burger purchased land in 1851, Simantel in 1852.

These Lutherans had no pastor, so they appealed to Pastor Wunder in Chicago to serve them. Under him in 1854 they organized the Evangelical Lutheran Franconian Church. Their first resident pastor came in 1856, the Rev. Lorenz E. Kaehler. Gradually some of these German Lutherans began to move to Dwight.

By 1865 Rev. Franz Schmitt was resident pastor of the Goodfarm Lutheran church, and was also serving the Lutherans in Dwight. Early in 1867 Rev. Schmitt helped to organize Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Dwight, and helped to erect the first church building. Late in 1867 Rev. Schmitt was succeeded at Goodfarm by the Rev. C. H. G. Schliepsiek, and now he continued to serve Dwight. He gradually also started new congregations, Chenoa, Union township, east of Pontiac, and Pilot Knob, now Bonfield. Serving four congregations was too much for him, and so in 1872 Pastor Schliepsiek resigned at Trinity, Goodfarm, gave his largest congregation and

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parsonage to his successor, Rev. C. Wuench, and Rev. Schliepsiek moved to Cayuga where he rented a house and continued to serve Dwight, Union Twp. and Chenoa.

In 1883 he moved to a different parish, and by that time the Rev. Carl W. R. Frederking was serving Trinity, Goodfarm, and he took over the congregation at Dwight as a joint parish with his own, serving until 1893. By this time Emmanuel, Dwight, had grown to over 100 members, and Prof. Reinhold Pieper, and Prof. W. Streckfuss of Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Ill., began to serve Emmanuel. On March 19, 1893 Prof. Pieper presided at a meeting of Emmanuel in which a call was extended to a graduate ministerial student of Springfield, the Rev. G. F. W. Westerkamp, who was ordained and installed as Emmanuel's first resident pastor on September 3, 1893. On April 15, 1895, it was decided in a congregational meeting to build a new church. Mr. G. M. Hahn offered \$1,000. Mr. Fred Steffan was hired as builder, ground breaking ceremonies were held on July 3rd, and the corner stone was laid on July 21st. The building was dedicated in the fall of the same year. This building is still serving as the church, while the old church building began to be used as a Christian Day School taught by the pastor.

In January, 1898, the Rev. G. Westerkamp accepted a call to Cleveland, Ohio and was succeeded by the Rev. Gustav Ernest Wockerfuss in 1898, who served until June, 1907. The same month the next pastor, the Rev. W. O. J. Kistermann came from Pingree Grove, Ill., and was installed as the next resident pastor. In 1911, the Rev. J. A. Leimer, who was serving Trinity Goodfarm, induced his congregation, and Emmanuel to begin services in the English language. In June 1914 Rev. Kistermann accepted a call to Hamler, O.

Emmanuel's fourth resident pastor was the Rev. M. H. Mueller of Marena, Okla., who was installed on August 23, 1914, and served until August 30, 1952. Under Rev. Mueller the day school was closed, and a Sunday School begun. Dec. 1, 1952 Emmanuel congregation extended a call to the Rev. Paul F. Hartmann, of Messiah Congregation, Carlyle, Illinois, and he was installed on February 1, 1953.

The Congregation now has the following organizations: A Sunday School with a staff of 13

teachers, a mixed choir directed by Mrs. Lila Beier, a young peoples' organization which is affiliated with the International Walther League, a Mens' Club affiliated with the Lutheran Laymens' League, a Ladies Aid, and a Mary-Martha Society affiliated with the Lutheran Womens' Missionary League. The congregation is at the present time in the process of planning a new \$160,000 church and parish hall.

Trinity Lutheran Church (Goodfarm) (Missouri Synod)

The pioneers who settled Goodfarm Township over 100 years ago came from different Lutheran lands of Germany, but most of them hailed from a province of Bavaria named Franconia. Thus came into being the first organized church in this vicinity in 1854, organized by the Rev. Henry Wunder of Chicago, although there were circuit riders who had visited homes as early as 1852. Pastor Wunder had been a student at the Missionhouse in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, in 1845, and thus was personally acquainted with at least some of these first settlers. The building of the Chicago and Mississippi railroad, finished in 1854, made possible several things: the establishment of the town of Dwight, the organization of what was first known as the Evangelical Lutheran Franconian Church, and the opportunity for the settlers to earn some money in order to be able to purchase some land as farms.

Rev. Lorenz E. Kaehler came in 1856 as the first resident pastor. Just when he left is not clear, but a graduate Seminary student from St. Louis by the name of the Rev. Franz Schmitt took over the joint parish of Pilot (now Bonfield) and Goodfarm townships in 1863, and in 1865 he moved to Goodfarm. His stay here was but two years, but it was long enough to establish a daughter church in Dwight (now Emmanuel Lutheran Church). Later in 1867 the Rev. C. H. G. Schliepsiek took over the joint parish of Goodfarm and Dwight. By 1872 he had a parish of five congregations. Goodfarm, considered the most important and the only one with a parsonage, he turned over to his successor, the Rev. C. W. R. Wuench, while he moved to Cayuga, serving from there Dwight, Chenoa and Union Township (now Pontiac). He in turn was succeeded by the Rev. C. W. R. Frederking who enjoys the distinction of the longest pastorate at Goodfarm,

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from 1878 to 1896. Ill health caused his resignation late in 1896 or early in 1897, and he spent his last years in Dwight, where he died in 1902.

The next pastor was the Rev. A. Vogt, who served at Goodfarm from 1897 to 1902. In the latter year came the Rev. H. Grefe, who served until 1906, and in turn he was succeeded by the Rev. G. Schaaf, from 1907-1910. 1911 saw the arrival of the Rev. J. A. Leimer. During his pastorate a precedent was set in introducing, even though it was on a modified basis, the English language. He also did the same for Dwight Emmanuel. Rev. Leimer served here until January 1917. From Jefferson City, Mo., now came the Rev. P. J. Danker, whose service at Goodfarm was the longest next to the Rev. Frederking, from 1917 to January 1935. In 1936 came the Rev. D. J. Kramer, who served until April, 1944, and late in 1944 came the Rev. E. W. Schwartz, the present pastor.

Old time residents may still remember the summer kitchen on the Fruehwirth farm, now Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lasse. This served as the first chapel for services somewhere along what is now Highway 47. In 1861 the then Lutheran Franconian Church, since about 1870 called Trinity, acquired a two acre plot of land, the present property. Here was built a chapel along the lines of the present school, and parish hall. To this was added in 1875 the forementioned building, serving as church and school, and in 1889 an additional half acre was purchased for the purpose of serving not people, but horses. The old parsonage burned to the ground in 1884, and with it the records available prior to that time. The old church was replaced in 1899 with the building still serving Trinity as a house of worship. All buildings, parish hall, and parsonage underwent a process of rehabilitation and modernization from 1944 to 1952.

First Congregational Church

1865 — 1954 Dwight, Illinois

On December 1, 1865, the first sermon was preached for the new Congregational church in this faith, of Dwight, Illinois, by the Rev. J. A. Montgomery, a student from the Congregational Seminary in Chicago. This meeting was held in Gerson's Hall.

On the 12th of January, 1866, a council of delegates from the neighboring churches was convened, and invited to give advice regarding the

permanent organization of a church, and 11 persons identified themselves with the congregation. Those recorded were Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Brewer, Mr. and Mrs. H. Eldredge, Mrs. S. M. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cutler, Miss S. Alden, Miss S. A. Snyder, Miss Mary Armstrong, and on profession of Faith, Mrs. Rebecca Snyder.

In 1867 an effort was made to build up a church, with lots procured and building commenced.

In January 1868, an elegant church was dedicated, free from debt. The total cost of the building, grounds, etc., was \$5,425. The Rev. J. A. Montgomery was pastor from the first organization of the church until 1873, when he accepted a call to Morris, Ill., and the Dwight pulpit was afterwards filled by Rev. W. C. Rogers, with about 150 members. It had a flourishing Sunday School with an attendance of 150, of which Mr. A. Brubaker was Superintendent. In this year—1873—the Presbyterian church merged with the Congregational church.

1879. Rev. Dr. Hartley accepted a call to pastorate here.

Ladies' Benevolent Society

The Ladies Benevolent Society of the Congregational church was organized Feb. 2, 1880, at the home of Mrs. J. C. Hetzel, with 15 ladies present, to do what they could to help the cause of missions, as they believed it to be God's work, and more could be done together than separately. The charter members were Mesdames Adams, Brubaker, Cornell, Cadwallader, Cary, Eldredge, S. Eldredge, Estes, Hartley, McClure, Newell, Jordan, Pool and Parsons. The officers now (1954) are: Pres., Mrs. Judy Anderson; Vice Pres., Mrs. Mildred Koch; Secy., Mrs. Selma Mortensen; Treas., Mrs. Victoria Scott.

The annual Chicken Pie Supper dates back almost to the beginning of the group. The idea was brought back from the east by Mrs. Adams and has been making a hit with Dwight people ever since.

The Ladies Benevolent Society has a membership of 58 at present—the first meeting boasted of 15 present. It has an honorary list of members over 70 years old, who are still remembered at birthday time and holidays with cards. In the Congregational church today are many improvements which have been the work of the ladies of the church. The kitchen has been remodeled, the dining room improved with new tables, drap-

eries, folding chairs, etc. This means a lot in the serving of suppers in the church, as now it can serve 300 or more at chicken pie suppers.

1881. Rev. Albert Lee became our pastor.

1883. Rev. G. A. Jameson was our next pastor.

1885. Rev. J. R. Barnes was called to be our pastor.

1886. Rev. William Wilson was chosen to succeed Rev. Barnes.

1887. On Feb. 12 of this year the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor of our church was organized. The late Prof. H. D. Fisk was the first President. The Endeavor had for its motto, "For Christ and the Church." Its object was to help young people to live nearer to Christ, to assist the pastor of the church in his work in every way possible and to promote the principles of good citizenship, also to cultivate the spirit of friendliness and kindness to strangers. The officers were: Pres., Mrs. J. A. Spencer; Vice Pres., Mary Nelson; Treas., Mrs. J. L. Van Eman; Sec., Bessie Baker; Recording Sec., Alida A. Martin. In later years, the name was changed to Pilgrim Fellowship. Officers now are: Pres., Elmer Stevens; Vice Pres., Tommy Spivey; Sec., Mary Elaine Morehart; Treas., Tom Wilson.

1888. Rev. P. M. France became our next pastor.

1889. On Jan. 11 nine ladies of the Congregational church met at the home of Mrs. France to organize a Missionary Society. The officers were: Pres., Mrs. France; Vice Pres., Mrs. Milton Palm, Sec., Mrs. Ella Bell; Treas., Mrs. Calwallader. The Missionary Society is now merged with the Ladies Benevolent Society.

1892. Rev. H. M. Cole was chosen to succeed Rev. France. At this time a pipe organ was purchased for the church at a cost of \$900.

1893. Rev. J. A. Fisher was our next pastor.

1894. Due to poor health, Rev. Fisher resigned as pastor of the church and was succeeded by Rev. E. F. Wright.

1900. Rev. Sheldon A. Harris was next called to be our pastor.

1902. Rev. William J. Drew, of Elmira, Ill., accepted a call to our church here, and in 1909, during his pastorate, our present handsome church was erected at a cost of \$25,000, with a new pipe organ, fine Sunday School rooms, well equipped kitchen for use in serving suppers and dinners, also a platform for use in giving various entertainments. This new church was dedicated Dec. 19, 1909, by Rev. W. E. Barton, D.D., of Whea-

ton, Ill. Solos were sung by Josephine Goodman and Hazel Fisk. This church belongs to the Fox River Association.

1911. Rev. Drew resigned as pastor and was succeeded by Rev. F. F. Farrington. On March 9 of this year about 20 ladies gathered at the home of Mrs. A. E. Adams and her daughter Cora, for the purpose of organizing a ladies class in connection with the Sunday School of the church. A Constitution was adopted and the following officers elected: Teacher, Miss Clara A. Wright; Pres., Mrs. Maud Dunlap; Vice Pres., Miss Elsie Buehler; Sec.-Treas., Miss Mattie Hayes. It was called the "Philathea Class." In the latter part of 1919 the name was changed to the "Philathea Circle," as it was no longer a Sunday School class. The present officers are as follows: Pres., Mrs. Lola Brady; Vice Pres., Mrs. Mildred Koch; Sec., Mrs. Ethel Wolcott; Treas., Miss Martha Johnson; Chairman of Sunshine Committee, Mrs. Mary Bunderson.

1914. Rev. George H. Wilson was called to succeed Rev. Farrington, the latter resigning because of Mrs. Farrington's poor health.

1916. Rev. Claude E. Sayre was our next pastor.

1918. Rev. Harold D. Lamb was called to succeed Rev. Sayre.

1920. Rev. Lamb resigned because of poor health and Rev. Robert James Watson, a student, became our next pastor; he was ordained here, and married a young lady of our congregation—Miss Ida Schroeder, in August 1922.

1924. Rev. J. H. Schmidt was called to be our next pastor.

1927. Rev. Martin L. Gable was accepted as our pastor. He was quite musical and a singer. During his pastorate William McMeans, a former member of the Presbyterian church, but now a member of the Congregational church, purchased the bell from the Christian Science church (which was formerly the old Presbyterian church) that his father had given to the Presbyterian church many years ago, and had it installed in the tower of the Congregational church, where it is still in use.

In 1928 the Flower Fund of the Ladies Benevolent Society, (the purpose being to send flowers to sick and shut-ins) was organized. Mrs. Ida Rabe has been chairman of the Flower Fund for 25 years.

1929. Rev. William Grubb became our pastor and served for ten years.

1939. Rev. Nevin Danner was called as our pastor and during his pastorate the Young Woman's Guild was organized in September, 1940.

Young Woman's Guild

The Young Woman's Guild of the Congregational Church was organized in September, 1940, with a membership of 31. The object of the organization is to enlist the women of the parish in a closer fellowship, the purpose of which shall be to undergird the program of the Congregational church as it serves the cause of Christ in the community and throughout the world. During the years the following have been officers: Mrs. Philip Tock; Mrs. Evelyn McConnell, Selma Drew Howell, Mrs. Russell Vermillion, Mrs. Earl Dippon, Mrs. Harry Clausen, Mrs. Myron Osth, Phyllis Mower, Madora Zappa, Mrs. Harold Brown, Mrs. Frank Clausen, Mrs. Kathryn Parks, Mrs. William Grubb, Mrs. Robert Anderson, Mrs. Donald Anderson, Mrs. George McVickers, Mrs. Leo Ehman, Lucile Kuerth, Mrs. Tony Branz, Mrs. Clarence Wright, Mrs. Raymond Hopp, Mrs. Lawrence Sovad, Mrs. Carl Butzirus, Mrs. Merlin Legner, Mrs. Louis Groll, Mrs. Hans Brorsen, Miss Dorothy Peterson, Mrs. Philip Ricolo, Mrs. Milton Beyer, Mrs. Jack Costello, Miss Jean Strufe, Mrs. Harold Von Qualen, Mrs. Earl Adair.

The membership of the organization is now 52 with the following as officers: Mrs. Harold Von Qualen, Pres.; Mrs. Earl Dippon, Vice Pres.; Mrs. Earl Adair, Treas.; Mrs. Tony Branz, Sec.

During his pastorate Rev. Danner also organized the Junior Choir, ranging in age from 9 to 11 years.

1942. Rev. J. Kent Sanderson became our next pastor.

1946. Rev. Richard L. Ford was next called. He was a student from a theological seminary and served two years.

1948. Rev. Clarence B. Gould, from Warsaw, N. Y., became our next pastor. He organized the Intermediate Choir, which ranged in age from 11 years through 13 years. Mrs. Augusta Branz gave a Hymn Board to our church in memory of her husband, E. J. Branz, and Mrs. Jennie Johnson and her daughter Martha gave two beautiful silk flags to the church—an American flag and a Christian flag—in memory of their daughter and sister, Mabel J. Young.

1949. December 1, 1949, the Congregational Club was organized with the following officers:

Pres., Harry Clausen; Vice Pres., Helen Dippon; Secy., Mildred Grubb. Their meetings are held the second Sunday evening in the church parlors. The object of this Congregational Club is to demonstrate that the family type of relationship is the keynote of spiritual growth and one of the life-lines of Congregationalism. The free exchange of thought and ideas in an atmosphere of good fellowship, is the manner by which this Club endeavors to foster the increasing strength of our church.

On October 1, 1949, Mrs. Sigurd Jensen became our church organist and choir director.

1950. A beautiful brass cross and two lovely brass candlesticks were given to our church by friends, in memory of Mrs. Mary Jane Gould, wife of our pastor, and Miss Lidella Thompson. During this year two handsome brass offering plates were given by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dickler, in memory of their mother, Mrs. Clara Dickler.

1952. The Young Woman's Guild gave two beautiful tall brass candelabras to the church. Rev. Gould gave the electric clock that is in the auditorium of the church, on which are the words, "Think" on it. Rev. Gould resigned this year and Rev. Howard J. Preston was called as our next pastor, and is still with us.

The Cradle Roll

The Cradle Roll of the Congregational Church was started more than 50 years ago by Mrs. Georgiana Cook. The first name on this Roll was Ida Schroeder, who in 1922 became the wife of Rev. Robert J. Watson pastor of our church at that time. Mrs. Cook is still in charge of the Cradle Roll.

Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church

Salem Church and the beginning of Evangelical work in Goodfarm Township started in 1852-1853, when Rev. Elias Musselman and Rev. G. Vetter made an appointment in the home of Peter Haag, in Goodfarm Township and met with the family. We have the baptismal record of Mary Pfeifer, the daughter of George and Mary Pfeifer, who was born August 18, 1852 and was baptized in Goodfarm township, Grundy County, in October 1852 by Rev. Elias Musselman. Therefore we believe that this was the first recorded and earliest act of one of our Ministers in this township.

In the summer of 1852 they went from house to house to hold prayer-meetings each week. They had gotten enough enthusiasm at the prayer



First Evangelical Association Church, 1872-1912

meetings to ask Rev. Musselman and Rev. Vetter to preach for them during that fall. These brethren were stationed on the Naperville circuit which was made up of Oswego Prairie, Plainfield, Wheatland, Aurora, Naperville, Kankakee, Salina (Bonfield), Grand Prairie and Salem. They preached at Salem every fifth Sunday.

Peter Haag's home was open to the Evangelical preachers and the family's interest brought the Preachers back time and again, to preach to them and to the families who were neighbors and friends. When this family came to Good-farm township and bought land they were accompanied by other friends from the Oswego community, where they had formerly been members of the Evangelical Church. Consequently these people drew together under the ministry of Rev. Musselman and Rev. Vetter and formed a class, with Peter Haag as the first class leader. The first members were Peter Haag, Christian Burkhart, George Pfeifer, Leonard Fisher, and John Klughart. They and their families made up the beginning of the Evangelical congregation which later came to be known as the "Mazon Church."

Until 1856 preaching was done in the homes, also the prayer meeting was carried on under the direction of Peter Haag. In 1856 under Rev. Schreiber a church was built on the land of Peter Haag, (this location is on route 47, just about 90 rods north of the east and west road, on the east side of the road, on land belonging to Wayne Hoffman.) It was a modest building and plain, 18 x 28, without tower or bell and cost

\$500.00. There were eleven families belonging to the church at that time—Peter Haag, John Meier, George Pfeifer, Leonard Fisher, Michael Sindal, John Klughart, Fred Burkhart, John Schrothberger, George Haag, Martin Hoffman and Philip Gantzert. A Sunday School was organized during this time and Leonard Fisher was the first superintendent, followed by J. G. Schrothberger.

In 1865 six more families were added—Andrew Burkhart, Peter Rieke, Christian Rieke, John Hanne, Sr., George Zingebe, Jacob Constantine and William Constine. Peter Rieke was licensed as a local minister to hold services. An attempt was made to build a parsonage but it did not succeed. Civil war soldiers from Salem Church were John Phillip Gantzert, William Constantine, George Hornberger and Lewis Seeger.

The first marriage of our congregation was held in 1866 for William Constantine and Mary Klughart. The minister was Rev. Bernhard Ruh. The same year a parsonage was built in Dwight for the ministers of the Grand Prairie Circuit. One of the three ministers assigned to this Circuit lived in Dwight.

In 1877 a meeting was held to discuss the proposition of a new church building. They decided to relocate on the present site, on route 47, about 90 rods north of the old location, on the west side, on land donated by George Pfeifer. A frame church 32 x 46, with a 70 foot steeple and a bell was built for \$2419.00. The name was changed from Mazon congregation to the beautiful name "Salem Church of the Evangelical Association," since the congregation did not live in Mazon. Rev. Goessele, presiding elder, from Naperville, was to purchase the stone for the foundation in Joliet and have it sent to Dwight by freight; from Dwight it was hauled by wagon to the site.

In May the following trustees were elected: George Pfeifer, three years; Fred Pfeifer two years; Andrew Burkhart one year. The church was dedicated October 1, 1877 free of debt.

One of the earliest records of the Sunday School is given in an old treasurer's book. The first officers were: George Schrotberger, superintendent; George Zingebe, assistant; George Hoffman, librarian; Martin Hoffman, treasurer; and William Constantine, secretary.

In 1882 the two ministers appointed by the Illinois Conference to serve the Grand Prairie circuit had eight places to preach — Dwight, Salem, Zoar (Reddick), Grand Prairie, Salina, Mazon, Gardner and Braceville.

On June 13, 1886 the first Children's Day program was given to observe the day. This has been continued every year thereafter. On Saturday, one or two hours during the summer, a school was held. This school lasted for a few years only, due to several families moving away and their children withdrawing from the school.

In 1896 a Young People's Society was organized in German by Rev. Fred Schwartz, called "Jugend Bund." Carrie Burkhart was its first president. Because it was in German, this was quite a handicap to the young folks, who spoke English in the community.

In 1903 the Y.P.A. (Young People's Association) was organized under Rev. Storkman. This organization carried on all its meetings in English and was well received. It prospered and has been carried on ever since.

In 1907 the Dwight and Salem Churches were formed into the Dwight Mission, consisting of the two churches Dwight and Salem, thus severing their relations with the Grand Prairie Circuit. Rev. John Marth was the pastor.

In 1911 one of the first catechetical classes was graduated from the three year course. Ten young people were graduated. A Women's Missionary Society was organized during the pastorate of Rev. Ebert. Charter members were: Mrs. George Hoffman, president; Mrs. Leonard Bower, vice president; Mrs. Frank Gantzert, secretary; Mrs. William Pfeifer, corresponding secretary; Mrs. William Hoffman, treasurer.

In 1914 this field became self-supporting. Thus it became the Dwight-Salem charge and the designation mission was dropped.

Soldiers who served in World War I were Aaron Hoffman, Harold Hoffman and John Halterman. In 1919 eighty-one members were added to the two churches; three classes graduated from catechism.

On November 29, 1925, the Salem Church was rededicated after being remodeled at a cost of \$12,000.00. The church was raised so that a completely equipped basement could be constructed. Fourteen feet were added to the east end; the steeple was taken down and a tower built, and the outside was covered with brick veneer. Bishop Dunlap dedicated the newly remodeled church; Rev. K. J. Bauerle was the pastor.

The first vacation Bible School was organized by Rev. Paul Giese in 1926 and was one of the first held in this community. It was received with such favor, that it has been carried on each

year as a community project. Other union projects were carried on from this time with the Protestant church cooperating in Passion Week services.

In 1946 the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church merged on a national basis, therefore the name of the church was changed to "The Evangelical United Brethren Church." The young people's group took the name of Youth Fellowship, and the woman's organization took the name "Woman's Society of World Service."

In 1950 a men's organization, "The Brotherhood" was organized with Everett Gantzert as president. This included all the men of the Dwight and Salem congregations.

In the fall of 1953 a new Hammond Electric Organ was purchased by the congregation and used for the first time at the Advent services. Also an Organ lamp and Baptismal Bowl were presented as memorials to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weikum, by the Weikum children. At present there are 78 members at Salem Church, with good prospects for growth.

The present board of trustees include: Frank Gantzert as president, William Hoffman as treasurer, Herman Haacke as secretary, also Melvin Burkhart and Clyde Burkhart.

Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church

The year 1862 marks the beginning of our church in Dwight. Rev. Gagstetter served the large Grand Prairie circuit at the time. One year before Dwight was surveyed by Nelson Buck and marked out as a town, our Church in Goodfarm township had already been founded. This was in the year 1853—Dwight was founded in the year 1854. The first sign of a town as the records show, was an inverted tin can nailed to the top of a telegraph pole.

The first appointment for a religious meeting in Dwight by this church, was in the home of Simon Winkler. The meeting was conducted in the German language. Several German families had been invited to this first German religious service in Dwight. The charter members were: the Simon Winklers, the Buehlers, Conrads, Klugharts, Burgers and Brunners. The Winkler home was located about where the present parsonage stands at 209 W. Mazon Ave.

In 1872 after ten years of holding services in the homes the growing group built a little frame church. The pastor lived in Dwight, where a

parsonage had been built in 1866 for \$700. The pastors of the Grand Prairie circuit lived here and served Salem, Dwight, Grand Prairie, Zoar and Bonfield. In 1900 the present parsonage was built, while Rev. Groenwald was the pastor.

A Sunday School was organized in the early 1900's and meetings were mostly held on Sunday afternoons. Some of the early superintendents were Aaron Good, William Kelch and Mrs. Mary Dippon. The Sunday School when Rev. George Schwartz was pastor, had an attendance of about forty children.

A Ladies Aid was organized during the pastorate of Rev. Storkman and did very good work, helping with the church finances, by making quilts, tying comforters and later on holding bake sales.

In 1907 Rev. John Marth became the first minister of the Dwight Mission. The Mission consisted of the congregations of Dwight and Salem, thus severing their relations with the Grand Prairie Circuit and having one pastor to serve both churches.

In 1908 a tent meeting was held on the farm of Fred Pfeifer, which was led by Rev. W. B. Billing, presiding elder. The Dwight congregation took part in these meetings and it was carried on for several years, with considerable success and blessing to the people.

In 1911 it was decided that the congregation needed more room and a new church was contracted for. The old church building was sold and moved south of the Village Hall, where it was remodeled into a stucco house. The impressive ceremonies of the laying of the corner stone of the new Zion Evangelical Church, which was built on West Delaware Street were held on Friday afternoon, November 29, 1912.

The church was built for an outlay of \$8,000. Contributions came from neighboring Evangelical Churches and from those on the Grand Prairie circuit and from a few business men of Dwight. The congregation only numbered around thirty at the time. After the dedication of the new Zion Church, the English language was used entirely for all services.

In 1914 the charge became self-supporting and the name Dwight Mission was dropped, in favor of Dwight-Salem charge. The Young Peoples Alliance was formed about this time, meeting on Sunday evenings for devotional meetings and once a month for business meetings in the homes of the members. Laura Kelch was the first presi-

dent. In 1916 the district Y.P.A. convention was held in the month of June. In November both streets were paved by the church.

In February 1917 the Church purchased a new organ for \$137.50. Rev. Dagenkolb organized the first class in catechism. On Easter Day 1919 the first class of the three year Teachers Training Course graduated. Members were Ruth Kelch, Mrs. Alice Dagenkolb, Edward Gantzert, Fred Gantzert and John Klein. In 1918 the first marriage took place in the present church — when Edwin Kelch and Helen L. Jensen were married by Rev. Dagenkolb.

In 1926 Rev. Paul Geise, pastor, the first daily Vacation Bible School was held and the first White Gift Christmas service was put on by the Young People. It attracted the interest of the whole community and over three hundred people packed into the church. A Kimball piano was purchased in 1927.

During the term of the following pastor, Rev. C. J. Krell, the young people were particularly active in putting on religious and missionary plays each year, and received a good reputation for their fine efforts from the community at large. The pastor carried on a Leadership Training course, from which five young people graduated—completing twelve units each; other young people took the course so that 110 units of credit were earned.

During the pastorate of Rev. Fred Stroebel 1940-1950 Zion Church was twice redecorated and improvements were made on the basement of the church. The divided chancel was introduced, new cathedral lamps were put in by Miss Caroline Korner, the brass cross and candlesticks were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gantzert. A bulletin board was presented to the church by the Will Burkhart children in honor of their parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary.

In 1950, Rev. E. E. Schaefer, pastor, the basement of the church was improved and redecorated. An Organ fund was begun which led to the purchase of a Consonata Organ in 1953. A Baptismal Font was added to the chancel furniture by the Will Burkhart children in memory of their parents and eight grandchildren were baptized at the dedication service.

The name of the church was changed when the merger of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church took place in 1946, to the Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church of Dwight.

HISTORY OF DWIGHT'S SCHOOLS

The early settlers of Dwight, realizing the importance of their children's learning the "three R's," built the first schoolhouse in 1855, at a cost of \$275. The size of the schoolhouse was 16 x 24 feet. This building served as a schoolhouse for three years and was also used as a church and public hall. The first school directors were David McWilliams, Jeremiah Travis, and Nelson Cornell. Miss Sarah Snyder was Dwight's first school teacher.

It was not long before an increase in population made it necessary to build a larger school. Much agitation was manifested over the location of the new building, with the "East Side" location winning by three votes. In 1857, a school was built on the site of the present East Side School on land donated by James Spencer. Children going from the main part of town to the new school had to wade through slough grass as high as a man's head. There was no bridge over the creek, except the railroad bridge some distance up the track. Later a foot bridge was built. In 1861, a bell weighing 300 pounds and costing \$122 was purchased for the building. By 1864, additional space was needed and an addition 26 x 28 feet was built at a cost of \$1,500.

As the years went by, still more room was needed, for Dwight was a growing village, and in 1870 a new two-story brick building was erected at a cost of \$5,000 on land donated by James Strong, with the provision that the land should always be used for school purposes. This building was later to be known as the Dwight High School. On this same ground, the present Richard P. Morgan school stands. In the early "Nineties," additions were built to the West Side brick building to provide additional grade room on the first floor and classrooms for the high school.

The first high school graduating class was that of 1880, when Jesse Hubbard was superintendent. This class had three graduates—Allie Eldredge, Charles Fallis and Charles Rhodes.

The school election of 1894 was a hotly contested one. Five-hundred and twenty-two votes were cast in three hours. Mrs. C. M. Baker, who was one of the board members elected, was the first woman to be elected to the school board in Dwight. It is interesting to note that the prevailing teachers' salaries were \$40 to \$45 per month at that time.

By 1896, Dwight had a population of 2,255. The

crowded and unsanitary conditions of the schools were proof that a new school building was again necessary. With the decision made to build, came the decision to rearrange the entire system. The cornerstone of the present East Side building (old part) was laid by the Board of Education on October 19, 1896. The building was completed in 1898 at a cost of \$18,000. This building was one of the finest for that time and served adequately to accommodate the grades and high school for many years. Under the new arrangement, the West Side building was maintained as a primary grade school, and the children living west of Prairie Avenue were required to attend the West Side School.

The Dwight High School was fully accredited by the University of Illinois as early as 1898. At that time, a vote was taken on the question of setting up a township high school, but the election was not successful. In 1902, funds were contributed by the citizens of the community to make the third floor of the East Side building into a gymnasium.

In 1911, it was voted to build a new grade school on the West Side ground. This school was completed at a cost of \$11,000 and was called the Richard Price Morgan School in honor of the late Colonel R. P. Morgan. An addition was built in 1914, and the building is still in use, housing the first, second, third, and fourth grades of the West Side pupils.

In 1912, C. A. Brothers became superintendent of the Dwight Schools, and much of the expansion and curriculum improvement—particularly in the high school—came as a result of his excellent leadership. Mr. Brothers served as head of the Dwight Schools until the fall of 1948, a period of thirty-six years.

In 1915, the territory adjacent to Dwight was embraced by vote with that of the Village of Dwight and a township high school district was organized, with an area of 72 square miles. The formation of the Dwight Township High School was an important step forward, because—with increased revenue from the rural area and the increase in enrollment—more courses could be offered. The size of the high school district was increased from time to time by additional territory voting into the district, until, by 1953, the district contained 141 square miles.

By 1924, Dwight had again outgrown its school facilities, with an enrollment of 401 grade school and 189 high school students. The rooms were



The East Side School, 1900, with Miss Emma Baker as teacher, comprised the above picture.



Another photo of the East Side School group, quite in contrast to the top photo, showing the students in everyday wear. We imagine those bare feet were a lot more at ease than they were in those "Sunday-go-to-meetin'" shoes shown in the top picture.

badly overcrowded. The high school was in danger of losing its State recognition. It was proposed to build a new township high school at a cost of \$180,000; but the proposition was defeated by the voters of Dwight in a close election. To quote from the Dwight Star and Herald of December 5, 1924—"Much as we regret to state in this article, the project for a new building was rejected this fall. In glancing over this article, it would seem that our forefathers were more progressive and had the interest of educational facilities of our boys and girls more at heart than we of this generation."

Because the crowded condition of the schools continued to get more acute, in 1926 the people voted to build an annex for high school use. It was completed in February, 1927. This annex contained eight classrooms in which were housed the commercial department, the home economics department, a chemistry and physics laboratory, a biology and general science laboratory, and two recitation rooms used for the languages and history. These rooms have been used for essentially the same purposes down to the present date.

In 1928, the community voted in favor of building another annex. This annex included two large recitation rooms used for English, a shop, and a mechanical drawing room. The main part of this annex, however, was the large combination gymnasium-auditorium, a greatly needed addition to the school. When used as a gymnasium, it will seat 1,200 people, and when used as an auditorium, will seat 1,700 people. The building of the gymnasium made it possible for a full-time physical education program, as well as providing adequate facilities for basketball games, tournaments, plays, and community functions.

In 1931, at the request of many of the farmers of the community, the Board of Education provided an agriculture department. Since that time, Dwight has provided three years of agriculture for the farm boys, as well as farmer's short courses and classes for veterans of World War II.

As early as 1857, the school board felt the need of a superintendent and engaged their first one, Edwin Lathrop, at a salary of \$40 per month. Dwight has had twenty-four superintendents since 1857. C. A. Brothers, who served for 36 years, has the record for length of service.

The list of superintendents and their years of

service are listed below:

1857-1858—Edwin Lathrop.
1858-1859—L. P. Wilmot and wife.
1859-1860—S. G. Glenn.
1860-1861—D. S. Eyer.
1861-1863—O. F. Pearre.
1863-1865—L. P. Wilmot.
1865-1868—W. H. Gurney.
1868-1870—B. M. Moore.
1870-1871—L. F. Walker.
1871-1872—C. F. Gruely.
1872-1874—W. S. Wilson.
1874-1878—C. F. Diehl.
1878-1883—Jesse Hubbard.
1883-1890—H. D. Fisk
1890-1892—C. E. Schlabach.
1892-1894—W. T. Wilson.
1894-1895—J. H. Meneely.
1895-1901—George Horton.
1901-1905—R. C. Rennick.
1905-1908—Anthony Middleton.
1908-1911—H. B. Dickey.
1911-1912—Miss Huff.
1912-1948—C. A. Brothers.
1948— —Warren D. Kuster.

Dwight has always maintained a fine corps of teachers and many men and women of today owe much of their success to the splendid training received in the Dwight Schools. Teachers of the past meriting special comment by the Dwight Star and Herald in their edition of January 26, 1934, were Robert McIllduff, Lizzie Weagley, Fanny Ketcham, Mate McClure, Franc McClure, Laura Rodman, Agnes McIllduff, Mrs. T. M. Wright, Lucy Banks, Emma Baker, Belle McGinnis, Martha Paul, Erminie Ahern, Lillie Conrad, John Smith, Alice Perry, and Lillian Fisk. Marie Bissell, Cecelia Chewning, Marie Hutchison, Margaret Hubbard, and Maurine Ketcham were outstanding teachers in the Dwight Schools for many years.

Three teachers who have recently retired gave unusually long periods of faithful service to the Dwight Schools. Lena Hatting retired in 1950, after teaching for 39 years in the primary grades. Miss Hatting also served as building principal of the West Side School for many years. Eulah Lynn retired in 1953, after teaching home economics in the high school for 31 years. Ruth Murray became incapacitated by illness early in 1954, after serving as first grade teacher for more than 34 years.

Frank Miller, who retired in 1953, served as

school custodian for over 30 years.

Teachers on the present staff who have been in the system twelve years or more are Irma Hewitt, Emma Siedentop, Alma Eyer Krudup, Fred Van Dyke, Lennie Ellis, Wilfred Coe, and John Haegele.

A study of the minutes of the school board meetings down through the years supplies very interesting information. The records of the minutes are complete since 1892, with the exception of four years (1898-1902), which the secretary of 1902 says were burned in the Leslie E. Keeley Co. fire. Since 1892, the school boards of Dwight have had twelve presidents. Since 1915, when the Dwight Township High School was formed, there have been two boards, but the same president served both until 1952. The following men have served in the capacity of president: A. Brubaker; John Leach; Dr. C. L. Hamilton, 1906-1909; Thomas E. Barry, 1909-1913; R. W. Boston, 1913-1923; J. E. Ferguson, 1923-1929; Carl Christopher, 1929-1937; Laurie Stitzer, 1937-1940; James Oughton, 1940-1945; Martin Nelson, 1945-1947; James Oughton, 1947-1952; Hugh Thompson, President of District 232, since 1952; Herbert Boyer, President of District 230, since 1952.

Seven secretaries have served the boards of education since 1892. From 1892-1905, E. T. Miller, J. W. Baker, and F. A. Haise served. George Baker was secretary 1905-1917; Martin Nelson 1917-1928; Mary Chapple 1928-1934; Mary Smith since 1934.

Martin Nelson served on the school boards from 1910-1947. His tenure of 37 years was the longest in the history of the Dwight Schools. Mr. Nelson served as board member, as secretary for many years, and as president for two years. James Seabert had the second largest period of service, 27 years. Edward Hoffman and Louis Weicker served for 24 years. Other members with long periods of service were C. J. Ahern, Henry Siedentop, C. D. McWilliams, A. S. Holbrook, Dr. J. H. Oughton, Paul Paulsen, Elmer Gantzert, O. W. Finnegan, John Doherty, James McConnell, P. H. Von Qualen, and C. J. Ahern, Jr.

An important change was made in school organization when the Dwight Township High School was formed in 1915. The men who were members of the board were as follows: R. W. Boston, President; George Baker, Secretary; C. J. Ahern; Andrew Hansen; James Seabert; Dr.

J. H. Oughton; and R. E. Davis.

The history of the Dwight schools would be incomplete without a brief statement of their 1954 status. There are two districts, as has been true since 1915. The Dwight Elementary School District 232 has grown from 8 square miles until 1951, to 44 square miles, with an assessed valuation of \$15,000,000 (1953). Nine common school districts were attached to the Dwight district when these districts no longer had enough pupils to operate. Dwight has never had a consolidation, so this enlarged district is still operated as a common school district. The West Side School is operated to take care of the children of the first four grades who live west of Prairie Avenue. The enrollment is 124 (1953-1954). Except for some internal improvements, the West Side School is the same as it was when built in 1911 and added to in 1914. The East Side School houses the children of grades five, six, seven and eight. The grade school enrollment at the East Side School is 340 (1953-1954). The grade school children are all housed in the old part of the building, which was built in 1896. The rooms have been considerably improved by the addition of new lights, floors, and desks during the last few years. At the present time, all rooms are crowded. The educational program has advanced with the years, but the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic are strongly emphasized. Teachers are conscious of the fact that they are teaching boys and girls and must accept them at the educational, emotional, and social level that they find them and proceed to help them with their development. To aid this development, health and safety, physical education, social studies, science, music, art, and spelling are taught to all pupils. In the upper grades, home economics and shop work are offered to enrich the program. All pupils who live in rural areas are transported. The school operates a hot lunch program and a rental book system. Each student is offered the opportunity to have an insurance policy which covers accidents. Each classroom has a library to which books are added each year. There is no central library. Many films and film strips are now used in teaching. In 1953-1954, there were four full-time teachers in the West Side School and ten teachers at the East Side School. In addition to these fourteen teachers, there are special teachers of music, physical education, shop, and home economics.

The Dwight Township High School has an area

of 141 square miles and an assessed valuation of approximately \$30,000,000 (1953-1954). The total enrollment is 210. There are sixteen teachers, although five of them teach classes in the grade school. The high school has never owned a building. They rent from the grade school. The high school occupies the second floor of the old building, the classroom annex, and the gym wing. The gym itself is shared with the grade school, which seriously limits the physical education program of both schools. The gymnasium is also used as an auditorium for all school events. Since there is no other auditorium in the village, the school gymnasium is often used for community functions. The dressing rooms are inadequate for physical education and the shop is housed in one room on the second floor in the gym wing. The cafeteria is well equipped and is an asset to the school and the community. The classroom annex is fairly adequate for the classes taught there, although the home economics quarters need remodeling and the commercial department has become too small. The agriculture department is in the basement of the old building, and there is no farm shop, the library is on the third floor. Its location seriously limits its use.

In spite of building difficulties, the high school maintains high standards. It has been a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools since 1916. The teachers are well trained (eleven of the sixteen have their master's degree), teacher turnover is small, and the salary schedule is good. The same salary schedule is also used in the elementary school. Twenty-nine different courses are available to students. Several of these courses are two, three, or four years in length. In addition to the regular academic courses, vocational courses are offered in agriculture, home economics, commerce and shop. Instruction is offered in two languages, Latin and Spanish. A full high school program of pre-engineering is available. There is a club program to take care of various student interests and many students belong to two or three clubs. The student Council directs the student activities. Extra-curricular activities include the band, glee club, speech, dramatics, and athletics. Major sports are football, basketball, and track. The girls have their G.A.A. program. Dwight High School has its own chapters of the National Honor Society and the Thespian Society. All rural students are transported. The hot lunch program, rental book system, and in-

surance are available to all students.

During the present school year, a citizens' committee of twenty people, not directly connected with the school, is making a study of the Dwight Schools under the leadership of the Office of Field Services of the University of Illinois. The facts they uncover and the conclusions they reach should be of great benefit in helping the school boards in planning for the future.

In conclusion, it would seem appropriate to list the membership of the Boards of Education and the school personnel who are at present directing the education of the future citizens of Dwight.

Board of Education, Dwight Elementary School, District 232:

Hugh Thompson, President; John McWilliams, Elmer Christopher, James Baker, Merlin Ogg, Vernon Voigts, (One position vacant due to death of Paul Paulsen); Mary G. Smith, Secretary.

Board of Education, Dwight Township High School, District 230:

Herbert Boyer, President; C. J. Ahern, Jr., Herman Ohlendorf, Harold Von Qualen, William Steichen, Albert Klehm, Albert Mortensen, Mary G. Smith, Secretary.

School Faculty: Warren D. Kuster, Superintendent. West Side School: Esther Stout, First grade; Agatha Hagerty, second grade; Mary Abry, Third Grade; Alma Krudup, Fourth grade. East Side School: Ruth Murray, Esther Boundy, First grade; Jean Thompson, Second grade; Nelle Maher, Third grade; Emma Siedentop, Fourth grade; Lennie Ellis, Fifth and sixth grades; Catherine Wiegman, Fifth and Sixth grades; Josephine Wiegman, Fifth and Sixth grades; Verna Wepprecht, Seventh and Eighth grades; Irma Hewitt, Seventh and Eighth grades; Mary Ellen Krum, Seventh and Eighth grades.

High School Faculty: Mildred Ayers, Girls' Physical Education; Lorene Bratt, General Science, Biology; Mary Lou Carter, Mathematics; Joseph Ciontea, Music; Wilfred Coe, Mathematics, History; Myrtle Frueh, English; John Haegel, Commerce; Lucille Kresl, Social Science; Leila Mudge, English, Speech; Leona Munzenmaier, Commerce; Donald Rose, Shop; Charles Vickers, Chemistry, Physics, Driver Education; Jean Voigts, Home Economics; Margaret Wiggins, Languages; Bennie Wilhelm, Boys' Physical Education, Coach; Fred Van Dyke, Agriculture; Dorothy Dixon, substitute teacher.

DWIGHT VA HOSPITAL

The Veterans Administration Hospital is located practically in the center of Dwight. The cite comprises a total of 3 and three-tenths acres of space with seventeen buildings. The hospital is of a general medical and surgical type with an operating bed capacity of 228 beds. One hundred twenty-eight of these beds are presently allocated to the Medical Service with the remaining one-hundred to the surgical service. The hospital year around has maintained a maximum patient load. The staff consists of a well organized professional group including specialists in major branches of medicine and surgery. In addition, the hospital has as consultants a number of specialists in various fields in medicine and surgery from the medical schools in Chicago and from surrounding cities. Augmenting the professional staff are other well qualified employees.

In 1953 a total of 2,360 veterans were admitted for treatment.

Dwight got its Veterans Hospital in the year 1919 when the buildings were leased from the Keeley Institute for a period of five years. The hospital operated under the Public Health Service until 1922 when the Veterans Bureau was established to absorb all of the old National

homes. The buildings were sold to the government in 1923.

In 1930 the Veterans Administration was created and has operated the hospital since. After the government had purchased the buildings, the hospital was closed for just a very brief period of time and then reopened. Again in 1933 the hospital was closed. However, it reopened in 1935. On May 11, 1947, a new four floor addition was officially opened. The cost of this new addition was \$418,000.00. At the time the addition was dedicated it accommodated patients on floors 2 and 3.

The Dental and Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat Clinics were located on the ground floor along with Physiotherapy, Laboratory, Pharmacy and X-Ray. The entire fourth floor was devoted to the Surgical Suite.

In the basement was a large recreation room fully equipped with three pool and billiard tables, ping-pong tables, two-way bowling alley, shuffleboard games, dart games, red ball games, and several pieces of leather and chrome furniture. This area was under the surveillance of the Recreation Section of the Special Services Division. Another large room on the basement floor was utilized by the Physical Medicine and Rehabilita-



Dwight High School graduating Class of 1922, showing from left to right in the caps and gowns; Chas. Simmons, Fannie Connor, Bessie Baker, Etta Calder, Clay Parker.

tion Division as a corrective therapy clinic. Another room in the basement was utilized as an autopsy room. Building No. 8, as the addition is now known, is completely modern and is furnished with all of the very latest equipment. The Administration Building, formerly known as the Livingston Hotel, was converted entirely into wards and is known as Building No. 1. The Keeley Laboratory, which is now Building No. 2, was and still is the Administration Building and the main entrance to the hospital. In 1944 the Government purchased what now are known as the Nurses' Quarters and the three buildings which are west of it on Mazon Avenue. The largest of these three buildings was formerly the Cottage Hotel. At the time of purchase original plans called for constructing brand new quarters for the nursing and other key medical personnel. Since adequate funds were not available to build such quarters, the buildings since that time have been remodeled and are presently utilized as quarters for the nurses, the Manager and other staff doctors and their families.

The area served by the Dwight VA Hospital at that time was bounded by two diagonal lines drawn across Illinois. One extended from Dubuque, Iowa, southeast across the State to Moline, Illinois, and the Indiana line; the other extended from Ft. Madison, Iowa, across to just above Robinson, Illinois, and the Indiana line.

Over a period of years many changes in managementships and renovations have taken place. Since 1935 a total of six capable managers have served this hospital; namely, Dr. R. W. Browne, Dr. W. E. Kendall, Dr. Septimus Taylor, Dr. Peter A. Volpe, Dr. M. Herbert Fineberg, and Manager at the present time, Dr. Joseph L. Campbell.

Since the government acquired ownership of the buildings many alterations have been made, and are still in the process, for converting the former Livingston Hotel rooms into efficient and modern hospital rooms. The area in the new building formerly supervised by the Special Services Division as a recreation game room is now accommodating an ultra modern Central Sterile Service Supply and Occupational Therapy work shop. An important renovating job took place in September of 1950 when the connecting corridors between Buildings 1 and 2 were completed. On March 26, 1953, the hospital had installed a new oil burner which eliminated to a great extent the smoke pollution of the air in Dwight.

A Veterans Canteen Service has been added as

an integral part of the Special Services Program. The Canteen is located in the southeast corner of the basement of Building No. 1. This service was instituted in June, 1947.

The following services comprise the hospital "medical team:" Office of Manager, Office of Assistant Manager, Communications and Records Division, Finance Division, Personnel Division, Special Services Division, Supply Division, Engineering Division, Registrar and Contact. Under the Professional Services are Medical Service, Surgical Service, Dental Service, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service, Nursing Service, Radiological Service, Laboratory Service, Pharmacy Service, Social Service and Dietetic Service.

Voluntary Services Story

On April 8, 1946, representatives of several voluntary service organizations met in Washington, D. C., with the Assistant Administrator for Special Services. This meeting resulted in the formulating by the VA of regulations and procedures to be guided by the use of volunteer assistance in the VA Special Services Program for hospitalized veterans and in the establishment of VAVS Advisory Committees.

It is noteworthy to mention that as far back as 1922 a group of about fifteen to twenty women from Dwight were organized by Mrs. Georgianna Cook, a lifelong resident of Dwight. This group was organized under the auspices of the American Red Cross. Some of the duties which they performed were assisting with the folding and making of bandages, writing of letters for the patients, and assisting with other tasks.

In the Fall of 1935 the first Orientation and Indoctrination School was held for volunteer hospital workers. At that time there was a total of eight women that took the course. Of that number there still are three women who are very active to this day in volunteer work; namely, Mrs. Lilas Telford, Miss Goldie Hamilton and Mrs. Nicoline Sondergaard.

In May, 1947, the first group of volunteers serving under the auspices of the American Legion Auxiliary were organized to serve as volunteers or "Gold Ladies" as they are so commonly referred to in connection with their hospital work. Mrs. Savilla McPheeters served as the hospital chairman and later was succeeded by Mrs. Lilas Telford.

On November 7, 1947, the first VA Voluntary

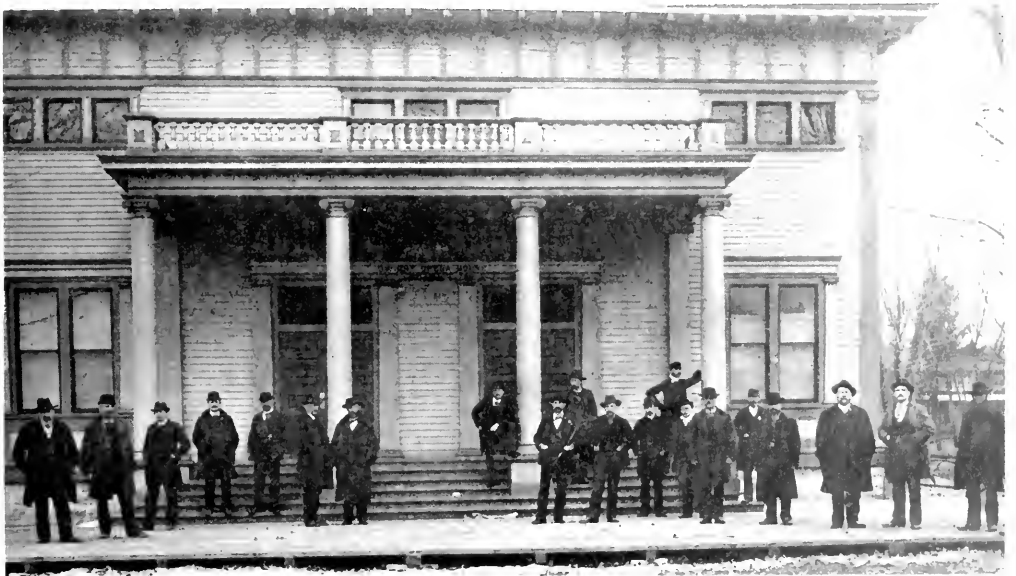
Services Hospital Advisory Committee meeting at the Dwight Veterans Hospital was conducted with six organizations represented. The membership of this committee has steadily grown ever since. At the present time twenty-eight civic, service, religious and welfare organizations are represented on this committee. The names of these organizations and the present representatives of what is commonly referred to as the Veterans Administration Voluntary Services Hospital Advisory Committee are as follows:

Organizations and representatives are:

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Mrs. Mildred Spence; American Legion, Mr. William Beckhelm; American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Telford; American Red Cross, Mrs. Margaret Fouser; American War Mothers, Mrs. Mary Atkinson; Amvets, Mr. Andy Brix; Amvets Auxiliary, Mrs. Otto Mackert; B'nai B'rith, Mrs. Fred Hefter; B'nai B'rith Women's Supreme Council, Mrs. Irving Gollub; Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary, Mrs. Mary Sobkowiak; Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mrs. Lillian Pombert; Disabled American Veterans, Mrs. William Faletti; Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Mrs. Margaret Wegner; Elks, Mr. William Klein;

General Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Nicoline Sondergaard; Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary, Mrs. Elsie Cohen; Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Mrs. Loretta Eft; Masonic Service Association, Mr. Adam Oesterle; Military Order of the Cootie, Mr. Dale Bennett; Mothers of World War II, Mrs. Genevieve Young; National Catholic Community Service, Mr. C. J. Ahern; National Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, Mrs. Marie Allen; Navy Mothers Club of America, Mrs. Mildred Chapple; Supreme Cootiette Club of Illinois, Mrs. Alice M. Neal United Spanish War Veterans, Mr. John Sutherland; United Spanish War Veterans Auxiliary, Mrs. Bertha Fay; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mr. Kenneth Moore; Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Mrs. Lena Veronda.

The object of the VA Voluntary Services Program at Dwight is to provide a coordination of volunteer aides to assist the staff which is charged with the responsibility of caring for the welfare of the patients and in aiding and motivating the patient to early recovery and purposeful living. Under this coordinated program the entire VA Hospital staff desiring to make use of the volunteers' aid in supplementing its present



The Old Opera House was a popular spot in Dwight's younger days, standing on Chippewa Street on the ground now occupied by the S. O. Nelson Implement Co. It was destroyed in a fire that took place in June of 1900.

program for patients or in order to provide an additional program does so through the VA Voluntary Services Hospital Advisory Committee. This committee offers the participating organizations the opportunity for proper coordination and integration of their service in the overall hospital treatment program. At this hospital volunteer assistance is utilized in the Nursing Service, Central Sterile Service Supply, Personal Services, Sewing Room, Library, Registrar Office, Recreation and Chaplaincy Service. Last year volunteers expended at this hospital a grand total of 21,624 hours—an incredible contribution of time and invaluable assistance to the hospital "team" through the medium of individualized and personalized service to the patients.

The VA Voluntary Service Program is a very important member of the hospital "team" playing a dual role: First, providing planned service and help to the patients in the hospital; second, providing the hospital the opportunity of interpreting the hospital program to the public through the committee representatives.

This committee convenes on a bi-monthly basis with Marvin J. Potthoff, Chief of Special Services and Chairman of the committee.

THE GREAT PASTIME IN DWIGHT

The first notice that we have of Baseball in Dwight was the organization of the Dwight Renfrews in 1871. In 1882 the Dwight Renfrews played the Streator Reds. Again in 1892, a female ball team from Cincinnati played the Dwight Mens' Team, and Dwight lost.

Around 1900 the players were Charles McWilliams, F. L. Smith, Amos Orr, Robert Orr, Charles Durphey, Charles Thole, Ed. Reeb, James Van Enman, Clarence Rabe, Wm. Rabe, Bones Thompson, Frank Snyder, Everett Lewis, Tony Kern, Carl Reumiller, and Charles Reel.

The 1902 team was George Kern, James Burns, James Seabert, Manager, Frank L. Smith, Wm. Smith, Otto Mickelson, Deak Morgan, James Ketcham, Eddie Higgins, Ray Brown, and Mose Brown.

On August 4, 1907, there was a game between Dwight and Pontiac at Pontiac. A large crowd from Dwight attended the game going on the new electric line. Coming home that evening after the game in two separate interurban cars, these cars collided below the Cayuga hill. Robert Orr was killed, as was the motorman of the second car, and a Mr. Cleary of Odell. James McConnell and Frank Geis were injured. The ball

team at that time consisted of Albert Metzke, Otto Mickelson, James Seabert, Manager, George Kern, William Smith, James Burns, Deak Morgan, James Ketcham, Charles Reel, Mose Brown, Ray Brown, Mr. Orr was acting Manager at that time.

On the 1907 team was Sam Lannon, Jack Lannon, James Burns, Abe Boyer, Eddie Higgins, Spike Gutel, Otto Mickelson, Louis Weicker, Resie Perdina, Alfred Gleghorn, Frank Flood, James Flood, Jody Knight, and Arthur Kern, Jim Seabert, Manager. About this time the Detroit American League Team had won the American League Championship. On their way to their farm club at Springfield, they played a game here. This was one of the biggest games ever played here. Our pitcher, Eddie Higgins, struck out Ty Cobb in his first time at bat. It was soon after that Eddie Higgins joined the St. Louis Cardinals. Around this time, also Wm. Sullivan, Manager of the Chicago White Sox, was in Dwight for a short time, and played with and coached the local team. Soon after this Mike Donlin of the New York Giants also was in Dwight for a short period, and he played with the Dwight team when they played Detroit.

Soon after this, Mr. Frank L. Smith was running for Lt. Gov. of Illinois, and the Dwight team, known as the "Frank L. Smith's" were gone about ten days playing every day in towns like Wenona, Lacon, Peoria, Bushnell, Morris, and elsewhere. Mr. Smith sponsored the team for many years, and the game between Morris and Dwight at the Mazon Fair was always a big attraction. Some of the Dwight players who went into organized baseball were: Abe Boyer and Art Kern to the I-M League; Otto Mickelson to the Springfield Three-I League; Eddie Higgins to the St. Louis Cardinals, and George Cutschaw to the Brooklyn National League team.

Bud Clancy of Odell also played for a time with the Dwight teams, and later went to the Chicago White Sox. Jody Knight went to Bloomington to the Three-I League.

In 1935-36-37 Dwight had two teams: The Steichen Deeres, and the Farmalls, managed by Thomas "Red" Neville. In 1938-39-40 there were two teams: Plymouth Boosters, and the Dwight Merchants.

In 1941, the Boosters and the Merchants consolidated. This team went to the State finals at Rockford in the American Baseball Congress, and was defeated in the final game by the Springfield



Pictured above are some of the early members of the local Frank L. Smith baseball team. Left to right, they are: Back row: fielder, Geo. Kern; 2nd base, James P. Burns; manager, James Seabert; Owner, Frank L. Smith; short stop, William Smith; pitcher, Otto Mickelson. Center row: catcher, Deak Morgan; 1st base, James Ketcham; pitcher and fielder, Eddie Higgins. Front row: fielder, Roy Brown; mascot, Kenneth Seabert; 3rd base, Mose Brown. The picture was taken about 1912.

Lumberjacks. In 1946, the Dwight Merchants team won the Northern Illinois League Championship, undefeated in league play. In 1947, the Dwight team took second place in the Livingston County League, and in 1948 this team won the Livingston Co. Championship, and then won the State Tournament sponsored by the American Baseball Congress, held at Havana, Ill. It represented Illinois in the National Tournament at Battle Creek, Mich. This team consisted of Jude Landon, Oliver Zappa, Philip Wright, John Weller, Lavern Weller, Bob Drew, Dean McNamara, Doug Christiansen, Andy Battrell, Leroy Hoberg, Joe Corrigan, Seth Langhoff, Floyd "Bob" Michaels, Don Mortensen, and Leo Pedersen, Coach.

DWIGHT CHAPTER S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. (BARBERSHOPPERS)

After much practicing under the leadership of Wilfred Coe and the support of the group, an application was made for a charter in the national organization of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Sing-

ing in America. This Charter was issued Dec. 4, 1948 and the Chapter was started under the sponsorship of the Chapter from Streator. The following were Charter Members:

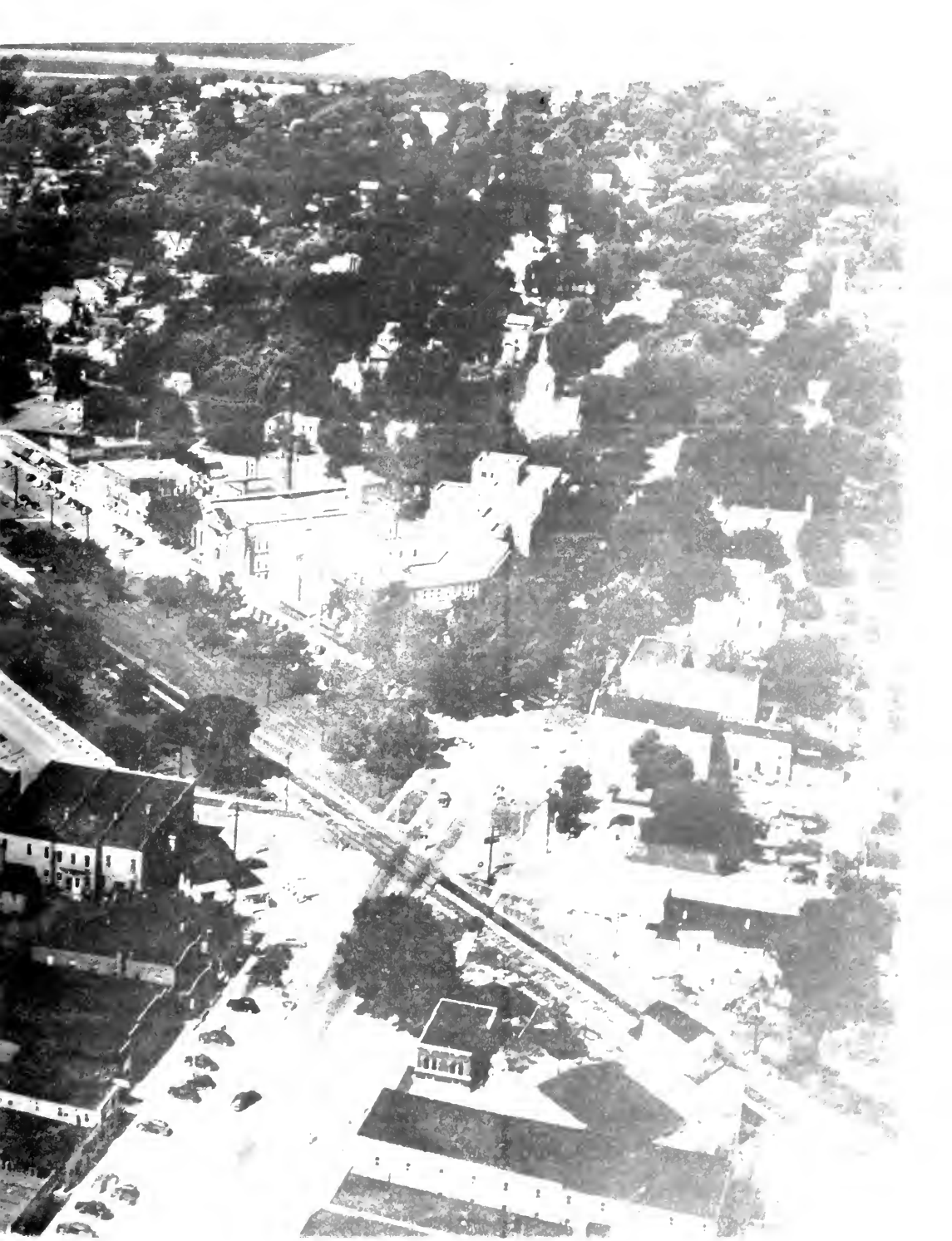
Louis Weicker, Edward Sterritt, Morgan Tambling, Paul Caywood, John Tock, Wallace Patten, Frank Mills, Frank Andrews, Bob Perschnick, Joe Tweedt, Francis McNamara, Earl Dippon, Wilfred Coe, Lyle Tambling, Frank Weber, Dr. A. E. Mantle, Glen Mathison.

The first president of the group was Wallace Patten and secretary W. C. Coe. The first director was Wilfred Coe, who was later followed by Lyle Tambling, who is still the director. The chapter affiliated with the Corn Belt Chorus under the expert leadership of John Hanson, one of America's great barbershop chorus directors. The Dwight Chapter has held five Annual Barbershop Parades and has presented in these parades many of the greatest Male Quartets in the World.

THE KEELEY INSTITUTE

Twenty-five years after the establishment of





the Village of Dwight, a medical organization was formed that was to grow in size and influence.

At the end of the Civil War, Leslie E. Keeley, M. D., who had been a combat surgeon in the late rebellion, selected the young and virile village of Dwight as a promising community to start his civilian practice of medicine. During his Army service, he had occasion to care for many soldiers suffering from acute and chronic alcoholism—and even then was developing his now famous rationale for alcoholism therapy. Scarcely had young Dr. Keeley established his practice when patients from a wide area sought him out for help for their illness of alcoholism—or as it was called then “inebriety.” Word of his skill, his understanding and his knowledge of the disease demonstrated during his service as an Army Surgeon had been carried throughout the country by the returning soldiers.

To meet the overwhelming demand for his unique skills, Dr. Keeley, together with John R. Oughton, a young Irish chemist and Major Curtis J. Judd, a retired army officer, established the now famous Keeley Institute. This sanitarium

was established and functioning in 1879 although the original company was not formally established until April 10, 1880, under the firm name “Leslie E. Keeley, M.D.” Articles of partnership were executed June 1, 1881 and then incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois on April 21, 1886 for twenty-five years under the name of “The Leslie E. Keeley Co.” with Leslie E. Keeley, President; John R. Oughton, Vice President and Curtis J. Judd, Secretary and Treasurer. These same three men made up the board of directors—and served together in those capacities for the first twenty years of the organizations existence.

Dr. Keeley died after a brief illness at his summer home in Los Angeles, Calif., on February 21, 1900. The Institute continued under the guidance of John R. Oughton and Major Judd. Judd retired some years later and Mr. Oughton became the sole head of the institution until his death in 1925. He was succeeded by his son, James H. Oughton, M.D., who had been a member of the medical staff since his graduation from Physicians and Surgeons medical school (now known as the medical school of the University of Illinois.) Dr. Oughton died in 1935. The direction of the Institute today is in the hands of James and Richard Oughton, sons of Dr. Oughton, and a trained staff, some of whom worked under Dr. Keeley and Mr. Oughton. Martin Nelson, the secretary-treasurer of the corporation was originally employed in 1893.

Dr. Keeley's methods are now used universally and his theories are the basis of the modern understanding of the alcoholic. His “drunkenness is a disease,” has been paraphrased into “alcoholism is an illness” and is the starting premise for all modern medical care. His “Keeley League,” a militant organization of thousands of “reformed drunkards” has its modern counterpart in Alcoholics Anonymous.

For Dwight, The Leslie E. Keeley Company, its founders and its principals have been the means of making a little country town into an internationally known progressive community. By outright gift, concerted action or strong encouragement they have developed such things as the water systems, streets, cemeteries, school properties and other community assets. Patients come regularly from all of North America to Dwight for help.



The above picture, 57 years old, depicts some of the members of the early Keeley Institute staff. Left to right, they are: Jessie Cruise, Dr. Jim Oughton, Mrs. Bill Baker, Artie Pollard, Frank Snyder.



An excellent old photo of the Keeley Institute on West Main street has the following identified people standing on the steps of the institution. Standing, left to right: Marths Paul; Spencer Eldredge; Martin Nelson. The next five women are unknown. Next man, Frank Haise; Judge Arnold; an unknown individual; and then Dr. Russell Broughton.



The above gathering took place for the purpose of planting a tree (in front of the American flag) in commemoration of the tree that had been planted here years earlier by the Prince of Wales. Several in the picture that have been identified are: 1st man on left end, Bill Cook, 4th man standing from left end, William West; 1st man standing on right end, front row, Dr C L Hamilton, next to him, Dr J H Oughton, on his right, Thomas E. Barry, to his right, J. R. Oughton; 1st man from right squatting on ground, John W Kochler, man reclining on ground on right front of picture, Major C. J. Judd. This is "Renfrew Lodge", house where the Prince of Wales stayed on his visit to Dwight. It burned down about thirty years ago and was replaced by a new house where Sherman Brown now lives.

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

According to the records of the Post Office Department now in our custody, a post office was established at Dwight, Livingston County, on December 22, 1854.

The first Post Office was located on East Main Street, in 1898 it was moved to West Main in the building which is now the Dwight News Stand. It remained there until the new brick building was completed.

The corner stone laying of the new Post Office took place January 2, 1937, and the dedication was on April 10, 1937. Mr. Kruetgen, Postmaster of Chicago, was the guest speaker.

Names of Postmasters and dates of their appointment were:

John Conant, December 22, 1854; David McWilliams, November 21, 1855; John A. Palmer, January 23, 1857; H. Hagerty, May 11, 1857; Manning Smith, March 30, 1866; James McIllduff, October 8, 1866; Homer A. Kenyon, April 5, 1869; John C. George, February 10, 1886; James B. Parsons, January 28, 1890; James Kelagher, March 6, 1894; William G. Dustin, March 16, 1898; Anson I. Graves, April 24, 1914; James E. Seabert, December 13, 1922; John E. Garrett, March 5, 1935; Hugh Thompson, October 31, 1943; Clarence D. Sorensen (acting), March 15, 1953 (still serving).

The first two rural routes, 1 and 2 were inaugurated August 1, 1902. Joe Tavares served Route 1 and Henry Wood served Route 2, he resigned and William O. Cook began carrying December 1, 1903. On February 1, 1904, two additional rural routes were added, Routes 3 and 4. Charles Graham served Route 3 and Harvey Boyer Route 4. On December 15, 1904 another route was added, namely Route 5, and was carried by Eugene Thompson.

The first city delivery service was inaugurated December 1, 1902. Charles Bower serving City Route 1, and Irwin H. Baker serving City Route 2, Otto Mickelsen substitute.

STATE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN

The State Reformatory for Women, like its sister institutions in other states was made possible through the united efforts of Women's groups in Illinois who—"disregarding differences of race, creed and political preference, united to materialize a vision of correction and education

for women convicted of offences against the law and heretofore, confined in county and city jails without hope or possibility of rehabilitation." Establishment of the reformatory at Dwight marks the culmination of a long legislative struggle on the part of women of the state. Beginning in 1916, women's welfare organizations and other groups worked for the passage of necessary legislation, which finally was adopted in 1927.

It is significant to note, as an Italian visitor once remarked—no state or country could have such an institution until it first had a woman's movement. Although the women in this state marshalled under the able leadership of the late Mrs. John T. Mason, the late Mrs. Charlotte Butler and Mrs. William E. Lewis worked for years to effect the establishment of this Institution, no actual progress toward the attainment of this goal was achieved until 1929, when at the outset of Governor Emmerson's administration the act passed in 1927 under Governor Small's administration was reinforced by an appropriation of a million dollars for the construction of a modern Reformatory. Other provisions of the bill presented at this time called for the appointment of an Advisory Board whose immediate objectives were the selection of a site and a qualified woman Superintendent. By late spring in 1929, the first objective was achieved when one hundred and sixty acres of land located two miles west of Dwight on highway 17 were purchased. By late January of 1930 the Board had their choice of a Superintendent confirmed by Governor Emmerson. Until July of 1953 the Reformatory was a division in the Department of Public Welfare.

The first commitments to the Reformatory unofficially called Oakdale due to the magnificent burr oak trees on the premises, were received November 24, 1930. As of July 1, 1953, we have received 2906 commitments. Aside from county jails and the city institutions in Chicago, there are no other institutions which may receive female offenders who have reached the age of eighteen. Under certain conditions girls between the age of sixteen and eighteen may be received here.

As a result of legislative action, Oakdale became a division under the Department of Public Safety as of July 1, 1953. Regardless of this change however the purpose of penal institutions remain unchanged i.e.

1. Protection of the public.
2. The rehabilitation of the offenders.

In the achievement of the second purpose, the first automatically is attained. We are socially and morally obligated to an all out effort to restore these women to society as more useful and law abiding citizens.

The founders of Oakdale held the hope that it would become a laboratory in which the intricate problems of anti-social behavior would approach solution. Aided by the Social and Medical sciences and reinforced by the power of Positive religion, they believed the high percentage of recidivists which they noted in their constant attendance at the Chicago courts would definitely be reduced. They were not unmindful of the enormity of the task which confronted the personnel.

Traumatic experiences in early life, injustices in our social system, inequities in our courts of law, political manipulation as well as unfair treatment of minority groups, all conspire to defeat the main objective.

However careful research would reveal two facts:

1. A relatively small number of women have been re-committed to the Reformatory.
2. The record of parole violators is an enviable one.

The original plan of small cottage units has been sound and has contributed largely to the high morale which has characterized the institution.

Since the opening of this Institution there have been ten Superintendents, both permanent and acting. Miss Helen H. Hazard was the first Superintendent and enjoyed the longest tenure of duty. Miss Hazard was Superintendent from 1930 to 1944 when she left for a tour of duty as an Officer in the WAVE Corps. In the last ten years this Institution has had nine Superintendents, they are as follows:

Mrs. Elizabeth Mann, Miss Helen H. Hazard, Mrs. O. H. Lewis, Mr. Clarence Farber, Miss Doris S. Whitney, Mr. Cyril Winking, Miss Helen H. Hazard, Miss Veronica Daniher, Mrs. Mary Powers.

DWIGHT AMERICAN RED CROSS

While records of the Dwight branch of the Red Cross up to 1924 have been lost, it is known that it was organized in 1917 under the sponsorship of

the Dwight Woman's Club. Mrs. E. B. Lewis was elected president, Mrs. Harry Adams, secretary, and Mrs. Maud Seabert, treasurer.

Officers and directors of the local branch at the present time are:

Chairman, Mrs. Orville Gillett; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Elmer Christopher; Secretary, Mrs. Edgar Mathiesen; Treasurer, Mrs. James Telford; Directors, Mrs. James Oughton, Sr., Mrs. Grace Baker, Mrs. Georgiana Cook, Mrs. Anna Drew, Mrs. Margaret Wheatley, James Baker, Edward Hoffman, Harold West.

From 1939 - 1949 with headquarters in Dwight and under the direction of Mrs. Georgiana Cook, the Red Cross did a great deal of foreign relief work, for which she received a citation of 5000 hrs. from the Womans Division of the Illinois War council.

DWIGHT BAND PARENTS CLUB

In the early 1930's when the Dwight High School Band was started under the direction of Tucker Drew, a Band Parents' Club was organized. It was active for several years.

On Friday, February 1, 1946 the fathers and mothers of the members of the Dwight High school Band met in the High School gymnasium and reorganized the club known as "The Dwight Band Parents' Club."

The following officers were elected to serve the newly formed organization: President, Mrs. Andrew Peterson; Vice President, Mrs. Elmer Christopher; Secretary-Treasurer, Albert Jorgensen. Committee chairman were appointed: Membership, Mrs. Richard Foesterling; Uniform, Mrs. H. O. Meier; Finance, Jacob Streubing; Instruments, Mrs. Elmer Christopher; Publicity, Mrs. Arthur Christiansen.

Since its organization the Dwight Band Parents' Club has purchased uniforms, instruments, pins, emblems, music and music stands for the band and has given emblems and pins to the band members.

In 1946, with the generous donation by the businessmen of Dwight and tag day receipts, enough money was raised to purchase attractive uniforms for the band.

The officers for 1954 Dwight's Centennial Year are: President, Mrs. Earl Jacobsgaard; Vice President, Mrs. George Stevens; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. P. E. Weaver. Committees were appointed: Uniform, Mrs. Catherine Stubbs, Mrs.

David Morehart; Publicity, Mrs. A. J. Kiesewetter and Mrs. S. O. Nelson.

THE DWIGHT HOME BUREAU

On November 10, 1927 at the home of Mrs. Alvin Sondergaard on East Chippewa St., the Dwight Home Bureau was organized. Mrs. Irma Vogel a Livingston County Home Bureau Chairman was in charge. The following officers of the Dwight Home Bureau were elected. President, Mrs. Vera Olsen; Vice President, Mrs. Ernest Kelch; Secretary, Mrs. Abram Lower; Treasurer, Mrs. N. W. Mamer; Local Leaders, Mrs. Clarence Brownsey and Mrs. Alvin Sondergaard.

The officers of the Dwight Home Bureau in 1954 are as follows: President, Mrs. Thomas McNamara; Vice President, Mrs. E. L. Amidon; Secretary, Mrs. Elmer W. Smith, Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Tambling; Recreation Chairman, Mrs. John Perschnick; 4-H Club Chairman, Mrs. Lester Lydigsen; Health and Safety Chairman, Mrs. Orland Bossert.

HISTORY OF GIRL SCOUTING

In tracing the history of Girl Scouting in Dwight we find a large group of girls under the leadership of Mrs. Lester Reeb after World War I.

There is a lapse until 1937 when they met in the home of Mrs. James Metta. There are 25 to 30 girls of varying ages all very anxious to become Girl Scouts. In due time the troop was registered and launched into the thrilling activities of Girl Scouting. Later Miss Riber guided the troop and in 1942 Mrs. Frank Beiswanger became their leader. Mrs. McGee to save the troop from disbanding filled in very ably until 1947. In 1947 Mrs. Kiesewetter volunteered and while under her leadership the troop was sponsored by the Dwight Woman's Club. Mrs. Bovelleville, the assistant leader, took over the troop and due to the large number of girls two new troops were formed.

In 1951, the Junior Woman's Club sponsored Brownie Scouts and from one troop, Mrs. Spreng being the original leader, they have grown to three very large, active troops.

Others who have aided these girls with their time and effort are: Mrs. James Oughton Jr., Mrs. Mae Bush, Miss McNamara, Miss Shingel, Mrs. June Seabert, Miss Eymann, Mrs. Taylor Moyemont, Mrs. James Scott, Mrs. John Metzke, Mrs. Judy Anderson, Mrs. Grace Feddersen, Mrs.

Campbell, Mrs. Hurwich, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Richard Oughton, Mrs. Riegel, Miss Jane Constantine, Mrs. Morehart, Mrs. Blakeman, Mrs. Harold Von Qualen, Miss Janet Rearick, Miss Sharon Olson, Miss Jenny Sproull, Mrs. Chianakas, Mrs. Ed-dington, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Arnold Hahn, Mrs. Fred Sproull and Miss Morehart.

HISTORY OF DWIGHT BOY SCOUTS

The movement was organized in the fall of 1923 and the meetings were held in the basement of the Methodist Church. The first group of boys consisted of Lone Scouts and received all material from the W. D. Boyce Company of Chicago.

"Many of these boys later became Scouts" and their names are listed as follows: Irwin Baker, James Baker, Robert Boston, William Boston, George Davies, Joseph Dodd, J. Doepeke, John Graves, Stewart Gordon, Louis Groll, William Hobbs, Leonard McKinney, Alexander McWilliams, Alvin Mickelson, Rex Monroe, Wray Monroe, James Norris, George Orr, Harold Orr, James Oughton, Louis Paaske, Louis Rabe, James Reynolds, George Rosendall, Carlyle Seabert, Roy Slattery, Hazer Smith, Hugh Thompson, Harold Von Qualen, William Weldon, Louis Weicker, Richard Weicker and Robert Wilson.

The Scouts were inactive until about April, 1939, when a troop was organized under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club through the Corn Belt Conference at Bloomington. The troop committee consisted of Harold Von Qualen, Scout Master; James Lynch, Assistant Scout Master; L. W. Bush, chairman; Clement Steichen, J. F. Zeigler, C. A. Brothers and F. O. Lund, committee members. The following boys were members of this troop: Doten and Marshall Bush, Wilfred Christiansen, Roger Cooke, John Costello, Bob DeTrempe, Herbert Drew, Bobby Fortner, George Hager, Harold Hampson, Robert Henderson, Ralph Jensen, Walter Komorowski, Oluf Lund, John Metzke, Bobby Nelson, Clarence Sorensen, Laurie Stitzer, John Turner, Donald Van Dyke, Frank Weber, Jack Welch, Billy Ziegler and Dick Zschau. Scout Masters since that time have been: 1939 to 1941, Harold Von Qualen; 1942 and 1944-45, Kent Sanderson; 1943, Sam D. Lyon; 1946-47, William Grubb; 1948-49, Meredith C. Eymann; 1950-52, Elmer Smith; 1952 to July, 1953, Andrew Battrell; July 1953 to the present time, Sherman C. Brown. The troop was sponsored by the Odd Fellows from 1946 through 1950 and by the Lions to the present.

A Cub Pack was formed in March, 1941, with a troop of 30 members. The original committee was Bruce Rearick, Cub Master; Nevin E. Danner, committee chairman; committeemen, Harold J. West, and Dr. J. J. Burns; and Denmothers, Mrs. C. D. Pierce, Mrs. Alvin Sondergaard, Mrs. O'Brien, and Mrs. Ruth Christiansen. This pack was dropped but reorganized in December, 1946, and has been registered ever since. The original sponsoring institution was the Odd Fellows and the Methodist Church took over the sponsorship in November of 1953. The original Cubs of the 1941 troop were: Joseph Burns, James Chandler, Howard Christiansen, Lansing Hodgman, Harold Jensen, Richard Mathiesen, John O'Brien, Richard Pierce, Alvin Sondergaard, Paul Schou and Harold West. The Cub Masters have been: 1941, Bruce Rearick; 1946-48, Donald E. Nelson; 1949, Donald Chase; 1950-52, Kenneth Beiswanger; 1953, Ralph Weber; 1954, Louis J. Groll. Today there is an active pack with 50 members.

DWIGHT JUNIOR FARMERS 4-H CLUB

Two and a half decades ago, a group of boys and girls met in the Dwight City Hall to organize an agricultural 4-H club in the Dwight community. Eleven boys and girls were present when the business session began. The officers selected were Charles Masching, president; Gilbert Lauritzen, vice president; Harold Ogg, secretary; and John Hahn, Reporter. Other members of the club were Merlin Ogg, Annette Hahn, Rudolph Kraft Jr., Bernice Gantzert, Dale Chapple, Ray Chapple, and Marie Masching. This was an unusual club, in that all members carried only the Dairy Project, and each member had a Holstein Calf. The leader chosen by the group was George Chapple, who now resides east of Dwight. At this time, the Assistant Farm Adviser was Sidney Caughey who now is a farmer and a local 4-H leader in the Pleasant Ridge community. The group chose "Dwight Junior Farmers 4-H Club" as the name of their club.

Leaders following Mr. Chapple were Gilbert Lauritzen, John Weller, Merlin Ogg, Glen Thomas, Earl Jacobsgaard, and the present leader, Walter Zabel.

Today the club has an enrollment of 20 members.

HISTORY OF DWIGHT CAMERA CLUB

The Dwight Camera Club is just a new organ-

ization being started in 1952 through the combined efforts of Clarence Smith, Gordon Fenner, Arthur Clausen, and other photography enthusiasts. The first meeting was held at the Dwight Library on November 10, 1952 electing the following officers: President, Clarence Smith; Vice President, Arnold Kepplinger; Secretary-Treasurer, Norma J. Beiswanger; and Program Chairman, Gordon Fenner.

The club year runs from September through May and consists of approximately 20 members at the present time. The purpose of the club is to aid and benefit by educational programs, demonstrations, field trips, and contests, those interested in photography.

DWIGHT GUN CLUBS

Dwight's first gun club was organized in 1894 with a membership of thirty, with J. R. Oughton President, and C. V. Bower Secy. and Treas. Later a club was formed with Charles McWilliams, President and Fred Kepplinger, Secy. and Treas.

On January 6, 1934 a few sportsmen met and organized a Dwight Gun Club with a closed membership of twenty. R. A. McClelland was the first secretary-treasurer. Joe Tavares was secretary-treasurer for several years. In 1944, Les Jepsen, one of the charter members, won the Grand American Handicap at Vandalia, Ohio, and two other members won the state handicap shoot at Chillicothe, Illinois, Orville Gillett and T. T. Tostesen. In January, 1945, the state took their shooting grounds for the by-pass around Dwight and they sold out and disbanded.

On December 21, 1945, a new Dwight Gun Club was organized. They met at L. G. Smith's place of business. The meeting was called to order by Pete Branz and they decided to organize a non-profit club with a 10 year charter. Their first secretary-treasurer was Elmer Bundersen. They have three traps and have held some big shoots. E. C. Scott and Delo Flint have been president and secretary and treasurer for the past three years.

THE DWIGHT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Dwight Public Library was formally dedicated on October 12, 1926. Due to rain, the exercises were held in the Blackstone Theatre, instead of on the lawn in front of the Library.

Mrs. Dr. Dondanville, the president of the

Dwight Woman's Club was the presiding officer. She told of the club's activities and efforts in obtaining the money to build the beautiful building. There were musical numbers, a pageant and the speaker of the day was Mr. George Utley, Librarian of Newberry Library, Chicago.

The cost of the building was \$9,000.00.

On January 31, 1927, the Library was opened to the public with Mrs. Litta Haise Martin as librarian and Miss Clara Hobbs as assistant.

There were 1800 volumes with more to be added. Dwight C. Morgan donated "The Early History of Illinois" in memory of his father the late Col. Richard Price Morgan. Mr. E. O. Welch donated a set of the Agricultural Year Books. The M. E. Sunday School donated their complete library. The library board expended \$500.00 for new books.

Now in 1954 there are about 6000 volumes. Mrs. Martin remained Librarian until May of 1946, almost 20 years, when Mrs. Effie Duffy took over the duties. Following her was Mrs. Grace West and for the past five years, Mrs. Lenore Hahn has been the Librarian.

THE DWIGHT COUNTRY CLUB

A charter was issued by the Department of State at Springfield, Ill., through the Secretary of State Harry Woods on November 24, 1913 to the Dwight Country Club.

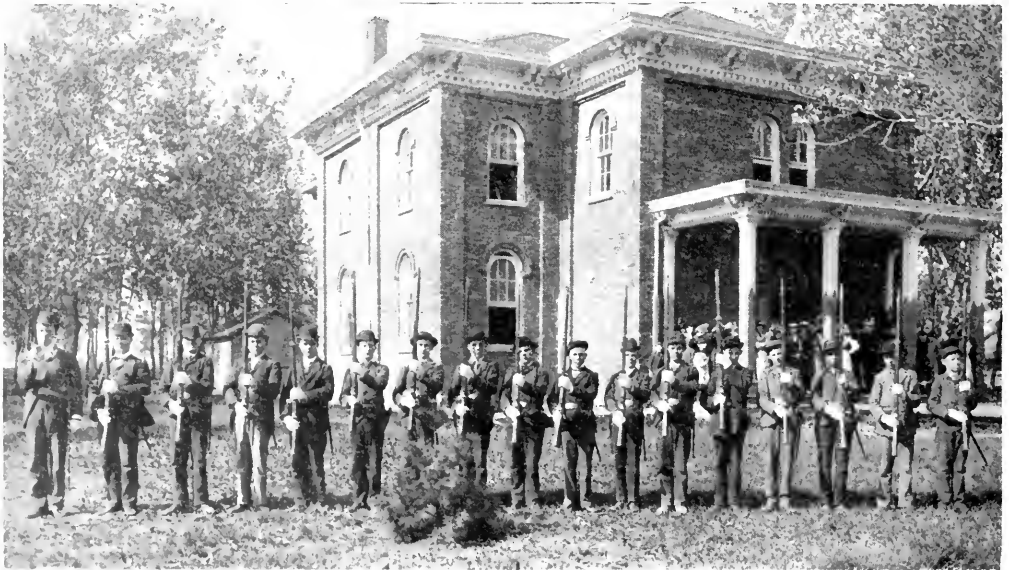
On the 26th of December 1913 an organization meeting was held at the I.O.O.F. hall and attended by the following persons; Edward McWilliams, C. J. Ahern, Dr. F. M. Dondanville, S. Fred Cummings, F. J. Vickery, J. L. Van Eman, Rev. F. F. Farrington, Roy V. Seymour, Jos. A. Diefenbach, James E. Seabert, Frank L. Smith and John J. Doherty.

The acting chairman was appointed and Edward McWilliams was appointed and the following officers were elected:

Frank L. Smith, President; Edward McWilliams, Vice President; John J. Doherty, Secretary-Treasurer.

Charles D. McWilliams, Edward McWilliams, F. J. Vickery, C. J. Ahern, Frank L. Smith, Dr. James H. Oughton, R. A. McClelland and John J. Doherty were elected as a board of directors.

The following were charter members:



An early photo of the Dwight militia formed during 1891-1892. It would seem that little attention was paid at that time to the age or size of the volunteers, as the two young fellows on the right are rather dwarfed by the length of their muskets.

John P. McWilliams, C. H. Thompson, W. G. Dustin, Edward McWilliams, Charles D. McWilliams, Frank L. Smith, C. J. Ahern, J. R. Oughton, Dr. F. M. Dondanville, F. J. Vickery, Dr. James H. Oughton, J. J. Doherty, James L. Van Eman, S. H. Sondergaard, E. H. Wey, R. A. McClelland and Roy V. Seymour.

On July 9, 1951 the Women of the Club formed what is called the Dwight Country Club Women's Organization, for the purpose of raising funds for the conditioning of the Club House and the plans of Women's golf. The following officers were elected. President, Mrs. Kathryn Milbauer; Vice President, Elizabeth Von Qualen, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Edna Boyer; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Nedra Haegle. The Board of Directors: Ruth Legner, Eva Nelson, Etta McGee, Jackie Gibbons, Peg Maracacci, Mary Jean Cox and Julia Potthoff.

DWIGHT WOMAN'S CLUB

The Dwight Woman's Club held its first meeting on October 6, 1914, in the home of Mrs. Frank L. Smith, who was the first President. The first year book names the following officers: Mrs. Frank L. Smith, President; Mrs. C. L. Hamilton, First Vice President; Mrs. T. E. Barry, Second Vice President; Miss Cora Adams, Recording Secretary; Mrs. C. J. Ahern, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. C. W. Myers, Treasurer. The Directors: Mrs. C. H. Barr, Mrs. James Oughton, Mrs. J. W. Baker, Mrs. P. J. Reynolds, Mrs. Charles D. McWilliams.

In the last war, our members sewed for Belgium and French war orphans, supported a war orphan and a Furlough House for American boys in France. Christmas boxes were sent to our boys overseas.

On March 18, 1922, Mary G. Harris, President of the Club, and Chairman of the Library Board, announced that during her tenure of office a Library fund of \$2,000.00 had been raised. This was the beginning of the Dwight Public Library, which is the favorite project of the Club and its finest achievement. Land-scaping of our parks, planting the highways and beautifying the Village of Dwight were successfully undertaken. In Alton Park a group of memorial trees were planted in memory of the nurse and soldiers from Dwight who lost their lives in the World War. Through the years wreaths have been placed in their memory on Decoration Day. The bronze

markers bear the following names: Pearl Ely, Albert Tunberg, Everett Davis, Chris Beck, and Frank Sopher.

On Tuesday evening, February 21, 1939, the Woman's Club celebrated its 25th anniversary, with a program dedicated to the Founders of the Club.

Since 1947, the Woman's Club has sponsored the Girl Scouts. Also in 1947 kits were given to Dwight boys when they entered service.

In December 1950, toys were sent to the Christian Training School for Indian children.

In 1950, Mrs. Max Miller, President, appointed Mrs. Peter Sondergaard to represent the Gen. Fed. of Woman's Clubs on the Veterans Administration Volunteer Service Com. at the Dwight Vets. Hospital.

In 1951, layettes were made and materials purchased for children's clothes and sent to Germany.

On October 6, 1953, a beautiful water color painting was purchased and hung in the club room of the Library. This the work of a talented young artist, Marian Martin Dickes.

On March 18, 1952, the club decided to sponsor two Dwight High School girls—chosen for their musical talent—to attend summer school at the Egyptian Music Camp at DuQuoin, Ill. This is a project of many of the federated clubs.

The Board of Managers of the Woman's Club for 1953-54 are as follows: Mrs. Howard W. Kelly, Jr., President; Mrs. J. Frank Ziegler, First Vice President; Mrs. Richard C. Oughton, Second Vice President; Mrs. Victor Sondergaard, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Earl Dippon, Corresponding Secretary; and Mrs. Isaac H. Fisher, Treasurer. The Directors are: Mrs. Max J. Miller, Mrs. James H. Oughton, Mrs. C. J. Ahern, Jr., Mrs. Anthony Baima, Mrs. Herman Ohlendorf.

TUESDAY NIGHT LITERARY CLUB

At the invitation of the Ladies Literary Circle a number of young ladies met at the home of Mrs. F. B. Chester on September 30, 1898 and decided to form an organization for young unmarried women. Miss Bessie Baker was chosen to act as temporary chairman and appointed a committee to write a constitution and by-laws for the new organization. The members of that committee were Miss Mary A. Conrad, Miss Florence Trunell and Miss Emma Barr.

On October 7, 1898, the group was organized

under the name of the Girls Literary Club of Dwight. The objectives of the new club were to familiarize its members with standard authors and to encourage mental and social improvement. The constitution and by-laws were adopted and those present affixed their signatures, thereby becoming charter members. Following is the list of charter members:

Fannie W. Conner, Florence E. Trunnell, Lydia L. Seabert, Florence E. Wright, Mary A. Conrad, Addie B. Fenn, Lydia L. Fox, Iva Martin, Gertrude B. Plank, Bessie S. Baker, Pauline E. Fox, Ada Vaughn Weldon, Agnes B. Buck, Susie E. Leach, Susie M. Fox, Myrtle O. Martin, Adaline H. Baker, S. Adelaide Barr, Lilly B. Conrad, Minnie E. Barr, L. Emma Barr, Margaret Meneely, Cora E. Adams.

The first officers were: President, Gertrude B. Plank; Vice President, Lydia Fox; Secretary, Bessie S. Baker; Treasurer, Minnie E. Barr; Program Leader, Lilly B. Conrad. Miss Fox and Miss Meneely served on the program committee with Miss Conrad.

On November 22, 1898 the name of the organization was changed to the Tuesday Night Literary Club.

During the first World War the club adopted a French war orphan and provided her with clothing for two years. They raised money to help build the Dwight Public Library and contributed a large table for the reading room.

In October 1948 the club celebrated the fiftieth year with a dinner and program. Nearly eighty members, past and present, were in attendance at the dinner given in the dining room of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Beda Sondergaard, the President, introduced the past presidents and a gift was presented to the oldest guest and only charter member present, Miss Cora Adams.

PYTHIAN SISTERS

Golden Keys Temple, No. 59, Pythian Sisters, was instituted April 8, 1908, with the following officers:

Most Excellent Chief, Alice Thompson, Excellent Senior, Ida Rabe; Excellent Junior, Gertrude Dieter; Manager, Mary Roeder; Mistress of Records and Correspondence, Anna Goodman; Mistress of Finance, Gertrude Wright; Protector, Jennie Miller; Guard of the Outer Temple, Margaret Hornberger; Past Chief, Nelle Flagler; Pianist, Libbie Kirkendall.

Our motto is "Onward and Upward" and the emblems of our temple are Love, Purity, Equality and Fidelity, which we strive to practice in our daily lives.

April 8 this year (1954) we will observe our 46th anniversary with the following officers: Most Excellent Chief, Lena Epstein; Excellent Senior, Hazel Cowan; Excellent Junior, Laura Pratt; Manager, Cora Perschnick; Secretary, Sarah Klein; Treasurer, Minnie Wilson; Protector, Louise Zebell; Guard of the Outer Temple, Ruth Lewis; Past Chief, Emma Carpenter; Pianist, Gladys Gillespie.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

One of the earliest organizations in Dwight is local Camp No. 1777, Modern Woodmen of America, which was chartered September 24, 1892. The Dwight unit is one of the earliest local camps to be instituted in this area, having been chartered but nine years after the founding of the parent society. Its charter was issued from Fulton, Ill., where the home office was then located.

Dwight Lodge Modern Woodmen of America Camp No. 1777 was duly instituted in the hall over the Keeley Treatment room.

The following names appear on the charter list: Charles M. Beck, Axel Bovik, Charles V. Bowler, John Burns, J. D. Bevans, Dwight W. Eno, Christian Eyer, Joseph France, Henry Goss, Hans P. Jacobson, James Kelagher, Jens J. Knudsen, Simon P. Klitz, John Leach, Fred Mowbray, A. Mullen, Mervin McMaines, James C. Oakshett, Charles A. Ogden, Ingever M. Peterson, Albert Revell, Charles T. Richards, Frank Reeb, Edward Reeb, Chris Skafgaard, Edward A. Smith, G. L. Smith, William H. Thornton, James L. Ubellar, James West, A. R. Zimmerman and William G. Dustin.

DWIGHT LODGE 513 I.O.O.F.

This Lodge was established in Dwight on May 22, 1873. In October, the same year, a charter was issued by the Grand Master to the following charter members: C. C. Gilbert, W. Simms, M. W. Tambling, John L. Clark, Thomas Weldon, Hugh Stevens, and E. P. Utley.

The Lodge helps to maintain an orphans' home at Lincoln, Ill., and an Odd Fellows old folks' home at Mattoon, Illinois.

The present officers are N. G., Albert Mortensen; V. G., Richard Foersterling; Secretary, Howard Burkhart; Treasurer, Frank Perschnick;

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Chaplain, John Dornbierer; R.S.N.G., Delo Flint; L.S.N.G., James E. McConnell; R.S.V.G., Percy Weaver; L.S.V.G., Sanford Ferguson; Warden, Donald Anderson, Conductor, Carl Paulson; Inside G., Ingman Christensen, O. G., Leo Pedersen; R.S.S., Walter Paulsen; L.S.S., Edward DeLong; Lodge Deputy, C. M. Clausen, and Trustees are; Delo Flint, Harvey Kime, George Fredensborg, Elmer Jacobsgaard and Ingman Christensen.

ROUND GROVE TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

In 1863 A. Z. Taylor, Cyrus Thomas, and Edwin Lathrope were appointed as a committee to select a place for a cemetery in Round Grove Township. This was set up with the provision that any taxpayer in that township would be eligible to have a plot of ground there for his family. In 1864 the Township of Round Grove borrowed \$300 from the school fund for cemetery purposes.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dwight Council No. 1282 Knights of Columbus was organized and issued its Charter on December 29, 1907.

Thomas E. Barry was the first Grand Knight of the Council and Martin Cornale is the present Grand Knight.

HISTORY OF DWIGHT ROTARY CLUB

In 1933 a Rotary Club was organized in Dwight sponsored by the Rotary Club of Streator, with the following charter members: C. J. Ahern, Roy M. Baker, C. E. Boyer, C. A. Brothers, Dr. R. W. Browne, L. W. Bush, Elmer Christopher, Francis L. Duffy, J. E. Garrett, Frank Gibbons, Dr. S. E. Graham, Earl N. Hager, Dr. E. F. Joss, R. W. Karras, Charles Lauritzen, Robert W. Lutz, R. A. McClelland, Nick Nelson, Gus Ohlendorf, Paul C. Paulsen, C. D. Pierce, Rev. C. F. W. Smith, Clement Steichen, Laurie L. Stitzer, Floyd Stucky, Father T. J. Timmons, Arthur Tock, Louis A. Weicker and Frank Ziegler.

The first meeting was held in the then residence property located on the southeast corner of Waupansie and Prairie Avenue April 25, 1938. At this meeting the following officers were elected: President, Laurie L. Stitzer; Vice President, Lloyd W. Bush; Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. S.

E. Graham; Board of Directors, Laurie L. Stitzer, Roy M. Baker, Lloyd W. Bush, C. A. Brothers, Frank Gibbons, R. A. McClelland and C. D. Pierce.

The Club received its charter at a meeting held September 21, 1938, at the Dwight High School gymnasium. The charter was presented by Dave Walker, Governor of the 147th District. About 300 Rotarians from 20 towns in the District participated in this meeting.

The Rotary Club sponsored the organization of the Dwight Community Chest, for which there was an urgent necessity at that time; took an active part in equipping Renfrew Park with recreational facilities; cooperated with the Village Board in erecting name plates of streets at the intersection of all streets; and the establishment of the off-the-street parking place on both sides of the railroad right-of-way. In addition the Club placed in front of the post office a curbstone mail box; revived the Boy Scout movement in Dwight; and sponsored the organization for years until it was a sound foundation.

The following members have acted as President of the Club since its organization: L. L. Stitzer, L. W. Bush, C. A. Brothers, Dr. R. W. Browne, Dr. S. E. Graham, C. D. Pierce, H. J. West, C. J. Steichen, L. A. Weicker, C. J. Ahern, Paul Paulsen, Frank Ziegler, E. M. Hoffman, E. C. Dickler, Charles Lauritzen, J. R. Baker and Warren Kuster.

The following is a list of the present officers of the Club: President, Warren Kuster; Vice President, Dr. Gerald Sullivan; Secretary, Howard Paulsen; Treasurer, William Zschau; and Sergeant at Arms, Harold Ohlendorf.

DWIGHT AMATEUR MUSICAL CLUB

The Dwight Amateur Musical Club was organized June 18, 1905 through the instrumentality of Mrs. David McWilliams and the late Miss Nellie McWilliams, who, musicians themselves, had a desire to promote a Club to which music lovers of our community who wished could belong.

The first meeting was held June 18, when the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. David McWilliams; Vice Pres., John J. Doherty; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Bessie Baker. This second meeting was held July 27, same year and the by-laws were drafted and read. Because of

meetings to be held in homes, the membership was first limited to 30 members, but later the club membership limit was greatly increased. The object of the Club was for mutual improvement and meetings were held once a month.

Many delightful programs were given at these club meetings, but not content with programs which only members could enjoy, the club decided to undertake more ambitious projects, and with the late O. Gordon Erickson as the capable director, gave the oratorio "The Swan and the Skylark," on June 8, 1909. Fifteen members of the Chicago Symphony Orch., with Mrs. Harriet Brown Seymour as piano accompanist, played the instrumental music score of the oratorio, with the vocal parts being taken by four Chicago artists. The entertainment met with great success, which spurred the club members on to greater efforts. Because of his musical affiliations in Chicago, Mr. Erickson had given up the direction of the club, and Mr. Charles Sindlinger of the Chicago Musical College, directed "The Mikado" which with its colorful costumes, comical dialogue and tuneful music, was a great success. Mr. Baradell of Chicago, was the stage director, and also took the part of "Ko-Ko" in the opera. Other members of the main cast were George Hood and Alexander Robb of Streator; Mary Thompson McGregor of Pontiac; and Theodore Hayes, John J. Doherty, May Hayes, Litta Haise Martin and Elsie Bartholic. Other members of the Club sang the choruses.

DWIGHT JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

The Dwight Junior Woman's Club was formally organized in October of 1926. The officers of the newly formed club were:

President, Miss Harriet Haise; Vice Pres., Miss Frances Ketcham; Secretary, Miss Lucile Smith; Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Tock; Corr. Sec'y., Miss Avilda Smith.

On December 19, 1926 the club held their first social event at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Thompson on East North street. There were 20 members and guests present. The Dwight club was the first club to be organized in this district (17th).

The purpose of all Junior clubs is to have a definite community project. For many years the Dwight club gave money to the Milk Fund in Dwight. In 1935 they purchased juvenile books for the Public Library and furnished eye glasses to a needy school pupil along with the contribu-

tion to the Milk Fund which was a fund set up for the purchasing of milk to be given to undernourished school children. During the Second World War, money was sent to the Servicemen's Centers and at Christmas time gifts were sent to Chanute Air Base at Rantoul, Ill. In the past few years the projects have been centered around buying fine playground equipment for Renfrew Park. Last year the Safety Lights at the East Side School were given by the Juniors. Another beneficial note to the community was the organization of three Brownie Scout troops which has been active since it was started in 1950 and the club is the official Brownie Scout sponsor.

The present officers for the 1953-1954 year are:

President, Mrs. G. M. Chianakas; Vice Pres., Mrs. Richard Wagner; Recording Sec., Mrs. Donald Rose; Corr. Sec., Mrs. David Constantine; Treasurer, Mrs. Donald Call; Press Agent, Mrs. Arthur Kern; Scrapbook, Mrs. Frank Brust.

PRAIRIE QUEEN REBEKAH LODGE

In December of 1894 several meetings were called for the purpose of forming a "Rebekah Degree Lodge" in the village of Dwight. The name of Prairie Queen was decided upon and then the chairman was instructed to send for the Charter.

On January 29th 1895, the officers of Unity Rebekah Lodge of Gardner were invited to institute Prairie Queen Rebekah Lodge. Ten members were initiated and twelve were received by card. The lodge was then instituted and the officers were elected and installed, as follows: Noble Grand, Miss Nora Goodman; Vice Grand, Miss Matilda Pettett; Secretary, Mrs. F. F. Sterritt; Treasurer, Mrs. Nora A. Ketcham; Deputy for the Grand Master, Mrs. H. A. Fox; Warden, Miss M. E. Reader; Conductor, Miss Nelle C. Taylor; Chaplain, John Geis; R.S.N.G., John Pettett; L.S.N.G., Mrs. Emma Chamberlin; R.S.V.G., Miss Pauline Fox; L.S.V.G., Miss Emma Baker; Outside Guardian, J. K. Buffham; Inside Guardian, W. J. Taylor; and Past Noble Grand, Henry Fox.

Of the 22 charter members, three are still members—Mrs. Nora A. Ketcham, Mrs. Estella Baker Wilkinson, and Mrs. Florence Shearer Kern.

The officers of 1954 are: Noble Grand, Nona Flint; Vice Grand, Isal Struebing; Secretary, Ethel Perschnick; Financial Secretary, Mabel

Weaver; Treasurer, John Tock; R.S.N.G., Gertrude Metta; L.S.N.G., Esther Stout; Musician, Esther Houck; Warden, Elsie Nelson; Conductor, Genevieve Perschnick; Chaplain, Mabel Seymour; Jr. P.N.G., Emma Siedentop; Outside Guardian, Jake Stubeling; Inside Guardian Margaret Branz; R.S.V.G., Lola Brady; L.S.V.G., Mabel Nelson.

DWIGHT LION'S CLUB

Dwight Lions Club — Organized Dec. 23, 1947

1947 First Officers:

President Clarence Roeder

Secretary Frank L. Beiswanger

Treasurer Ralph Sodini

1st. V.P. Elmer L. Davis; 2nd. Frank S.

Andrews; 3rd. C. J. Ahern, Jr.

Lion Tamer LeRoy Hansen; Tail Twister

M. C. Eymann

Directors George Rosendall, Herbert Boyer,

Taylor Moyemont and Floyd Covill

Charter Members:

C. J. Ahern, Jr.; Frank S. Andrews; Tony Baima; Frank L. Beiswanger; Herbert Boyer; Floyd D. Covill; James DeLong; Earl Dippon; Harvey Gantzert; Ray Goley; John Heagele; George B. Hager; LeRoy Hansen; Reuel Hoffman; James Marcacci; Paul Moyemont; Taylor Moyemont; Alexander McWilliams; Herman Ohlendorf; Glenn Partridge; Clarence Roeder; George G. Rosendall; Robert Sampson; Ralph F. Sodini; Vernon Von Qualen; Russell Tambling.

January 1948

Organization of Club by Representative Twyman. Election of Officers and appointment of Administrative and activities Committees.

June 1948

Baseball league and summer recreation program was started and has been very successful. December 1949

On New Year's Eve, the Dwight Lions club presented a new Hammond organ to the Dwight Schools, a project that had been in mind for several weeks, and finally was realized thanks to a popularity contest staged by the club. Details of this "Miss or Mrs. Mardi Gras" contest were enumerated in November's report. "Miss Mardi Gras" was crowned at the Lions' New Year's Eve dance, which was attended by over 800 people in the high school gym. She was given two tickets for New Orleans, with the Berry Tours, and \$50 in cash for her personal expense in the Gulf city. The winning contestant received over 38,000 votes

which meant that \$38,000 spent by her friends in Dwight from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The total vote cast for all 34 contestants was just a bit more than 311 thousand, which represented the same amount of dollars spent. Not only did the Lions club make it possible for a young lady from Dwight to attend the festivities of the Mardi Gras, and purchase an electric organ for the local schools, it also provided a method by which money was spent with the local merchants during the Christmas shopping period. A total of \$2200 plus was garnered from the contest and the Lions put in \$311 to make up the difference of the organ so that instrument might be at the dance Dec. 31. The contest was highly publicized in the local newspaper and surrounding towns also. The Lions in Dwight definitely put over a big project in Dec. and each Lion member jumped into the project full blast. Probably never before has any project received the support that the Lions gave to this contest so that a Hammond organ could be given to the local school.

MASONS

The Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brothers of Livingston Lodge under dispensation of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons met in special communication at Masonic Hall in the Town of Dwight upon the call of the Worshipful Master, March 1st A.D. 1862 A.L. 5862 at 7 o'clock P.M. and opened upon the Third Degree of Masonry in form:

Present:

W. Brother E. J. Jenks—Worshipful Master

Brother W. L. Gross—Senior Warder

Brother J. W. Rockwell—Junior Warder

Brother C. S. Newell

Charter issued October 8, 1862 to Livingston Lodge No. 371.

DWIGHT PRIME HOME BUREAU

An organization meeting for a Home Bureau Unit was held at the home of Mrs. Claytus R. Watters on May 27th, 1947 with 19 ladies present.

After the purpose of Home Bureau was explained the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. John Drechsel; Vice President, Mrs. Ivan Watters; Treasurer, Mrs. Ray Goley; Secretary, Mrs. Charles Watters. Meetings were held in member's homes on the fourth Thursday of each month with the Home Advisor and Local Leaders giving the lessons on alternate meetings.

The Dwight Prime Unit derived its name from S. K. T. Prime, one of the earliest settlers in the community.

Officers at the present time are: President, Mrs. LaVern Feddersen; Vice President, Mrs. Paul Marx; Treasurer, Mrs. George Perry and Secretary, Mrs. Frank Perschnick. We now have a membership of thirty-six.

MCDOWELL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The McDowell Cemetery Association was organized in May 7, 1883, and the following Board of Directors was named in the Articles of Incorporation: A. B. Dunlop, Daniel Gallup, and John Stewart. The signers of the certificate for the organization and incorporation of this Association were: A. E. Dunlop, John Buffham, Hugh Thompson, A. Marshall, E. F. Bell, C. T. Ingraham, Daniel Gallup and John Stewart.

MT. OLIVET CEMETERY

Mt. Olivet Cemetery at Dwight was the only Catholic cemetery in this vicinity for many years. In 1860 people from Odell, Saunemin, Blackstone, Pontiac, Wilmington and Gardner were buried in this cemetery.

In 1915, a group of ladies organized the Mt. Olivet Cemetery Guild to help finance the necessary work to be done at the cemetery. Mrs. Elizabeth Salzer was elected as President of the Guild and served from April 15, 1915 to April 2, 1946, when she resigned. Mrs. Frank L. Smith was elected Treasurer and served from April 15, 1915 to April 2, 1930, when she resigned.

The present officers of Mt. Olivet Cemetery Guild are:

President, Rev. M. A. Tracy; Vice President, Miss Helena Hatting; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Dorothy Smith.

GOODFARM CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

In the year of 1854, fifteen men, mentioned in a deed, chose the plot now known as the Goodfarm Cemetery.

In the very beginning space for burial was taken side by side as needed, a custom brought with these settlers from Germany. But this did not continue very long for in the records of 1865 it states that part of the cemetery grounds was divided into lots and numbered and that the charter members obtained by chance or choice a family lot.

At first lots sold for \$5.00 and adult single graves for \$1.00 and children single graves for 50c, and by a gradual increase the lots sold for \$20.00 by 1898.

From the records beginning in 1865, we find the following men have served as trustees of the association: G. B. Krug, Martin Hoffman, George Simantel, John L. Meier, Leonard Fisher. S. M. Sindell, Fred Burkhardt, Leonard Hoffman, George Burger, Martin Burger Sr., John Schrotberger, William Pfeifer, William Hoffman, Elmer Gantzert, Martin Burger Jr. The last three are the trustees of the present day, 1954.

DWIGHT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

(Oak Lawn Cemetery)

The first meeting for organization purposes was held on August 18, 1877 and the records of the minutes for the first meeting were as follows.

"Eugene Baker, John C. Hetzel, Homer A. Kenyon, Austin E. Gould, James B. Parsons, Charles M. Baker and Henry T. Newell met this day at the office of Henry T. Newell, Dwight, Ill., for the purpose of forming a cemetery association. A. E. Gould was elected temporary chairman, H. T. Newell, temporary secretary. Eugene Baker, H. A. Kenyon and H. T. Newell were appointed a committee to draft by-laws for the organization. J. B. Parsons, Charles M. Baker and H. T. Newell were appointed a committee to secure grounds for cemetery purposes."

The present officers of the Association are as follows: James H. Oughton, Jr., President; L. Burton Orr, Vice President; E. M. Hoffman, Secretary-Treasurer; Elmer Christopher, Trustee; Hans P. Rosendall, Trustee; Lester W. Reeb, Trustee.

SONE OF UNION VETERANS OF CIVIL WAR

The Dwight Camp No. 270, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was organized July 16, 1889, in what was known as Grand Army Hall. Sixteen candidates constituted the charter list. The first Captain, as the head officer was then called, was Joseph K. Buffham. The camp flourished and soon had a fine membership.

Some of the members of 50 years ago were Orville Brown, A. A. Boyer, S. H. Boyer, W. G. Dustin, James E. Seabert, Ernest and Roy Seymour, John Snyder, John Spencer, W. T. Scott, T. W. Davis, H. F. Boyer, Roy Wheatley, William Buffham, Charles Koehnlein and others of that time.

The principles and objects of the Sons of Veterans, as the organization was first known, was to perpetuate the memory of the services and sacrifices of the veterans of the Civil War in their efforts to preserve the union. Since then

the principles and objects of the organization has broadened considerably. Only lineal descendants of a soldier or sailor of the Civil War, however, is eligible to join the organization.

A recent project of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, nationally, was the securing by legislative enactment by fourteen northern states of the naming of Route 6 as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway. This Highway, some 3600 miles long, runs east and west from Provincetown, Mass., to Long Beach, Calif.

DWIGHT SERVICE MOTHERS' CLUB

On Thursday evening, November 5, 1942, forty four mothers met at the village hall of Dwight to discuss the forming of an organized group for the mutual welfare of their sons and daughters in the service. The following officers were unanimously elected: President, Mrs. James Oughton, Sr.; Vice President, Mrs. Edward Cleary; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Otto Mickelson. With the newly-elected officers presiding, definite steps were taken to send birthday cards or letters to the Dwight men and women in the service. Further discussions were held on the feasibility of conducting some sort of canteen service for the transient service men and also any Red Cross work that might be necessary.

The organization thought it wise not to join the chartered War Mother's Club, and was strictly kept a local organization. The purpose of the Club was for the mothers and relatives of the boys in the service to get together to do whatever work necessary to help the boys.

The work the Dwight women did in the canteen in Streator at the railway station feeding so many boys returning from the Pacific was a most worthwhile service.

The organization continued to function until the war ended and then disbanded. The officers elected at the first meeting continued to serve during all the years the club functioned.

AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Auxiliary No. 2 to Dwight Camp No. 270, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was organized October 26, 1901, the meeting being held in Sons of Veterans Hall, over Van Eman & Sondergaard's Dry Goods Store, the rooms now being occupied by the Milady Beauty Shoppe. The name of the Auxiliary then was the Ladies Aid Society No. 2.

The following officers were installed as the first officers of the newly organized society: Past President, Mrs. Catherine Dustin; President, Miss Lydia L. Seabert; Vice President, Miss Ella Chester; Secretary, Miss Ada Weldon; Treasurer, Miss Maud Brown; Guide, Mrs. Troia Calvert; Assistant Guide, Miss Leda Brown; Inner Guard, Miss Laura Wheatley; Outer Guard, Mrs. Mabel Lehr; Trustees: Miss Ilda Brown, Miss Louise Tambling, Mrs. Emma Mason; Chaplain, Miss Florence Harris; Judge Advocate, W. G. Dustin. Advisory Board: C. D. Parker, T. W. Davis, J. E. Seabert, A. A. Boyer and O. W. Brown.

The charter members were: Lydia L. Seabert, Leda Brown, Florence Harris, Marie Harris, Catherine Dustin, Maud Lee Brown, Lura Wheatley, Louise Tambling, Nellie Boyer, Georgiana McClary, Troja Calvert, Ilda Brown, Ella Chester, Carrie Spencer, Emma Mason, Jennie Boyer and Mabel Lehr. Of these charter members only one remains on our membership roll—that one is Mrs. Georgiana McClary Cook. Several of the charter members have died, others have moved away and still others are no longer connected with the order.

The present officers of our Auxiliary are: President, Mrs. Chloe Kelch; Vice President, Mrs. Beatrice Spandet; Chaplain, Mrs. Ida Rabe; Treasurer, Mrs. Olive M. Haynes; Secretary, Miss Jean M. Thole; Patriotic Instructor, Miss Mable Thompson; Guide, Miss Anna Houck; Assistant Guide, Mrs. Georgiana Cook; Color Guards: Miss Jessie Davis, Mrs. Gertrude Kelch; Guard, Mrs. Emma Perschnick; Counselor, Allan S. Holbrook; Trustees: Mrs. Elizabeth Vermillion, Mrs. Kathryn Parks, Mrs. Letty Connor. Musician, Mrs. Letty Connor.

HISTORY OF DWIGHT CHAPTER O.E.S.

Dwight Chapter, No. 166, Order of the Eastern Star of Illinois, organized by Mrs. John Pettett of Dwight, was instituted on October 31, 1890, by Mr. John Simpson, Special Deputy and husband of Mrs. Sue Simpson, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.

The charter members were: Mr. John Pettett, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Romberger, Mr. Charles Crandall, Sr., Mrs. Sam C. Wilkinson, Miss Matilda Pettett, Mr. and Mrs. John Leach, Mr. and Mrs. Millard Bell, Miss Joanna Crandall, Miss Lucy Crandall.

The first meeting was held in the I.O.O.F. Hall which was over the old Opera House on West

Main Street where the movie theater, the Blackstone, now stands.

Later the meeting place was changed to the Larsen building and in 1932, was again moved to the Odd Fellows Hall on East Main Street, its present location.

The first officers of Dwight Chapter were: Mrs. Rosa Miller, Worthy Matron; Mr. John Pettett, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Maude Wilkinson, Associate Matron; Miss Matilda Pettett, Secretary; Miss Joanna Crandall, Treasurer; Miss Lucy Crandall, Conductress; Mrs. Nellie Romberger, Associate Conductress; Mr. John Leach, Chaplain; Mrs. Carl Miller, Organist; Mrs. Maggie Leach, Adah; Mrs. Emma Taylor, Ruth; Mrs. Alice Oakshett, Esther; Miss Estella Baker, (Wilkinson), Martha; Mrs. B. A. Buck, Electa; Mr. B. A. Buck, Warder; Mr. George Peterson, Sentinel.

The present officers are: Mrs. Annette Mowat, Worthy Matron; Mr. Howard Hume, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Hazel Jensen, Associate Matron; Mr. Ralph Jensen, Associate Patron; Mrs. Norma Butzirus, Secretary; Mrs. Gertrude Metta, Treasurer; Mrs. Lois McVicar, Conductress; Mrs. Sarah Kline, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Barbara Scoville, Chaplain; Mrs. Edna Turner, Marshall; Mrs. Esther Houck, Organist; Mrs. Josephine Burkhart, Adah; Mrs. Esther Boundy, Ruth; Mrs. June Seabert, Esther; Mrs. Irene Hume, Martha; Miss Dorothy Petersen, Electa; Mrs. Zola Hodgman, Warder; Mr. Gabriel Price, Sentinel.

Mrs. Blanche Luther of Wilmington, Illinois is the grand lecturer of the local chapter.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TO POST NO. 486

A meeting to organize an Auxiliary to the American Legion Post 486 was held by Jens Spandet, Commander, at the home of Mrs. E. B. Lewis, on November 10, 1920.

Fifteen signatures were secured for the application for the Charter which was later increased to 25 members. Mrs. Lewis and Rebecca Kaye were elected temporary chairman and secretary.

On December 8, 1921, at their regular meeting, they elected the following officers:

President, Lilas Pierce; 1st Vice President, Rachel Telford; 2nd Vice President, Rebecca Kaye; Treasurer, Elizabeth Telford.

On January 9, 1935, a meeting was called for the purpose of re-organizing an Auxiliary to the

American Legion Post No. 486, by the Commander, Alvin Sondergaard. Miss Rita Pierce of El Paso, Illinois, presented the facts of the organization of the Auxiliary, after which 25 signified their intention of joining. A temporary chairman, Mrs. Ruth Carlin, and a temporary secretary, Mrs. Pearl Tock, were appointed. A nominating committee was appointed by the chairman to report at the next meeting. The following officers were elected:

President, Ruth Carlin; 1st Vice President, Lilas Telford; 2nd Vice President, Beatrice Sondergaard; Secretary, Pearl Tock; Treasurer, Edna Boyer.

Nineteen presidents have served the local Auxiliary to date. The officers at present are:

President, Martha Spreng; Secretary, Lilas Telford; Treasurer, Mary Lewis; 1st Vice President, Gladys McNamara; 2nd Vice President, Helen L. Call; Jr. Past President, Alta Yansen; Chaplain, Margaret Chiovatero; Historian, Helen G. Call; Sgt. at Arms, Dorothy Dixon.

At present the Auxiliary has 114 members, four of whom are members of the first Charter, namely: Hazel Allen; Florence Reeb, Gladys Carty and Lilas Telford.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS HISTORY

The Royal Neighbors of America, a fraternal benefit society, was chartered March 21, 1895 with supreme offices at Rock Island, Ill. The Dwight Lodge No. 575 was organized with 20 members on the 16th day of April, 1897.

Chartered members were: Mrs. Al Fisk, Mrs. James Kelagher, Mrs. Pat Leach, Mrs. Nellie Jenkins, Mrs. Kate Dustin, Mrs. Charles Mickelson, Mrs. Sam McDonald, Mrs. Mary Lawler, Mrs. Charles Bowers, Mrs. Sam Thompson, Mr. James Kelagher, Mr. Sam Thompson, Mr. Pat Leach, Mr. Charles Mickelson, Mr. Sam McDonald, Mr. Will Cook, Mr. W. G. Dustin, Mr. John Lawler, Mrs. Emma Leach and Dr. C. H. Barr.

The 59th birthday of the Royal Neighbors and 36th birthday of the Juveniles was celebrated by the Dwight Lodge with a dinner on March 24, 1954.

The present officers of the Dwight Royal Neighbors are: Oracle, Nellie Meiers; Past Oracle, Ruth Lewis; Vice Oracle, Sarah Klein; Recorder, Lee Epstein; Receiver, Gladys Gillispie; Chancellor, Cora Perschnick; Marshall, Hazel Cowan; Assistant Marshall, Anna Larsen; Inner Sentinel, Christine Jensen; Outer Sentinel, Louise

Gossreau; Musician, Gladys Gillispie; Flag Bearer, Margaret Gorr.

V.F.W. AUXILIARY 2608

The V.F.W. Auxiliary was founded in June, 1937. The charter members, including the officers are:

Margaret Gorr, President; Helen G. Call, Sr. Vice Pres.; Gladys Carty, Jr. Vice Pres.; Esther Hafland, Secretary; Nora Welch, Treasurer; Anna Larsen, Guard; Minnie Hansen, Trustee; Lydia Fortin, Conductress; Freida Zschau, Patriotic Inst.; Dora Schmidt, Color Bearer No. 1; Rose Zappa, Color Bearer No. 2; Louise Gossrau, Color Bearer No. 3; Pearl King, Historian; Florence Wiemken, Musician; Grace T. Dailey; Teresa Faletti; Vera Haire; Susie Hoegger, Trustee; Carolina Koerner, Trustee; Julia Nolan, Chaplain; Helen Schook; Augusta Stamm; Hattie Stevenson, Color Bearer No. 4; Wilma B. Womack.

DWIGHT POST NO. 486, AMERICAN LEGION

The charter for Dwight Post No. 486 was signed on the 20th day of August, 1920.

The first official meeting was held in the I.O.-O.F. building basement. Les Chase was elected post commander and Harold West appointed post adjutant.

Several years ago the Dwight Post had a very capable initiation team consisting of Alvin Sondergaard, Earl McPheeters, Edward Dickler, Lester Beiswanger, Harold West and Lloyd Gutel who traveled many miles and initiated many new members into the American Legion.

ALBERT TUNBERG POST NO. 2608 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

Charter was issued June 29, 1932. Frank Griffin a patient at the Veterans Hospital was the First Commander and Sr. Vice Commander was Frank A. Larsen and Richard (Dick) Wiemken, Jr. Vice Commander; with William L. "Bill" Faletti, Adjutant and Service Officer; Ollie Crandall, Quartermaster; Malhon Klughart, Chaplain; and Edward Schmidt, Officer of the Day. Trustees were Chester Pierce, Fred Horn and James Turner.

Charter Members: Guy P. Bordelon, Frank Larsen, Steve Zappa, James Turner, Elmer Hansen, Wm. L. Faletti, Chester Pierce, Floyd Griffin, Ed Schmidt, Richard Wiemken, Ollie Crandall, James Smarjesse, Fred Haire, George Greco, John Daly, James Donaghy, Celio Ortenzie, Albert Rus-

sell, Daniel Holcomb, Malhan Klughart.

The 1953 and present Commander is Donald Rohlf; Sr. Vice Comm., Egon Frandsen; Jr. Vice Comm., Walter Houck; Adj. Kenneth Olsen; QM. Kenneth J. Hoffman; Post Advocate, Dr. W. L. Westling; Chaplain, Wm. T. Schweickert; Surgeon, Dr. L. Neff; Patriotic Instructor, Gerald Rohlf; Officer of the Day, Richard Wiemken; Service Officer, Wm. L. Faletti; Post Historian, Marvin Potthoff; Legislative Officer, Wray Call; Trustee, 3 years, Kenneth Olsen, 2 years, LaVerne Seeman, 1 year, Kenneth Christensen; Asst. Adjutant, Dr. W. L. Westling, Asst. Quartermaster, LaVern Federsen; Guard, Paul Schook; Color Bearer, National, Arthur Rohlf; Color bearer, post, Rinehard Wick; Buddy Poppy Chairman, Calvin Wiemken; Membership Chairman, Kenneth Moore; Civil Defense Chairman, Anthony Zappa, and Publicity Chairman, Olin Amidon.

HEBRON LODGE NO. 175 KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Instituted January 18, 1888 with twenty-five charter members. Officers were as follows:

Chancellor Commander, Dr. C. H. Barr; Past Chancellor, Eugene Flagler; Vice-Chancellor, John Geis; Prelate, John Leach; Keeper of Records and Seals, L. H. Plummer; Master of Finance, George L. Kern; Master of Exchequer, Adam Denelach; Master at Arms, T. J. Graham; Inner Guard, George N. Flagler; Outer Guard, Henry Groll. Trustees, Frank Reeb, A. W. Kern, I. L. Perry. Charter Members: James S. Goodman, B. O. Goodman, A. W. Kern, O. C. Jensen, John Matzen, W. T. Prime, T. J. Graham, Wm. C. Bartholic, John Pettitt, Frank Reeb, G. B. Goodman, J. T. Buck, Dwight P. Mills.

50 year members, Robert E. Davis, L. F. Hornberger. 42 year member, Nathan Epstein. Our living Past Chancellors: L. F. Hornberger, 39th; Martin Swanson, 47th; Nathan Epstein, 49th; Harry E. Giles, 60th; Jesse H. Carpenter, 72nd; Mark L. Lewis, 74th.

The present Officers are, Chancellor Commander, Mark L. Lewis; Vice Chancellor, Martin Swanson; Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Deputy, Nathan Epstein; Prelate, L. F. Hornberger, and Master at Arms, Jesse H. Carpenter.

GIRLS 4-H CLUB

In 1931 Mrs. Ethel Walker and Mrs. Ed. Sterritt served as leaders for the first Girls' 4-H Club. It

was caded the W.S.B.C. club. Leaders in the following years were: 1933-34: Miss Esther Amidon (Mrs. Cottrell) and Mrs. Herman Ohlendorf. 1935: Miss Esther Amidon. and Miss Velma Watters. 1936: Mrs. S. Dixon Sorensen and Miss Louise Morris. 1937-39: no club active.

In 1940 it was started up again as "The Dwight Builder Uppers." Leaders were: 1940: Mrs. H. O. Jorgenson, and Mrs. Delmar Davis. 1941: Mrs. H. O. Jorgenson, and Mrs. A. Christensen and Mrs. Harold Rhode. 1942: Mrs. Walter Smith, and Mrs. Oscar Schultz. 1943: Mrs. Oscar Schultz and Miss Velma Watters.

In 1944 the club was named "The Dwight Home Economics Club." Leaders have been: 1944: Miss Velma Watters. 1945: Miss Velma Watters and Mrs. Harold Morse. 1946: Miss Velma Watters and Miss Thelma Thomas. 1947: Mrs. John Drechsel and Miss Rita Smith. 1948: Mrs. Elmer Davis and Mrs. Ernest Perschnick. 1949: Mrs. Elmer Davis and Mrs. Ernest Perschnick and Miss Charlotte McConnell. 1950: Mrs. Elmer Davis, Mrs. Clem Steichen. 1951: Miss Charlotte McConnell. 1952: Mrs. John Drechsel and Mrs. Orland Bossert. 1954: Mrs. John Drechsel, Mrs. Lester Lydigsen, and Mrs. Orland Bossert. 1954: Mrs. John Drechsel, Mrs. Lester Lydigsen, Mrs. Orville Landreth, and Mrs. Orland Bossert.

Congratulations

TO

DWIGHT

☆

HOTEL FRANCES

EAST MAIN STREET

DWIGHT

ILLINOIS



Charles McWilliams, Sr., young Charles Jr., and Mrs. McWilliams are shown above in the family car (1908 Stoddard-Dayton), a model reminiscent of the "get out and get under days."

Lumber

KITCHEN CABINETS

ROOFING

MILL WORK

WALLBOARD PRODUCTS

INSULATION

BUILDERS HARDWARE

STORM SASH

LADDERS

SCREENS

FLOOR TILE

ALL TYPES FENCING

CREOSOTED LUMBER

DU PONT PAINTS

CREOSOTED FENCE POSTS

ALL TYPES GLASS

CREOSOTED POLES

CLEARY LUMBER CO.

VINCE CLEARY, *Prop.*

THE LUMBER NUMBER
PHONE 500

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATOR COMPANY OF DWIGHT

Incorporated 1912

A co-operative conceived from necessity

Sustained because of it's integrity

A realistic example of results of co-operation.



DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

GARDNER, ILLINOIS

McCormick

Farm Implements

Tractors



International



Trucks, Freezers, Refrigerators

Used Equipment On Hand At All Times

S. O. NELSON IMPLEMENT CO.

113 EAST CHIPPEWA STREET



Best Wishes To Dwight On Its Centennial

FLUYERAS FORD SALES

Nick Fluyeras, Owner

DWIGHT — PHONE 95

1854 - DWIGHT CENTENNIAL - 1954

THE HISTORY OF DWIGHT, with its narrative of events and tributes to those citizens who contributed their efforts to its making, would not be complete without a fitting tribute to Colonel Frank L. Smith.

Colonel Smith was born in Dwight on November 24, 1867, and passed away on August 30, 1950, having spent his entire life in Dwight.

At an early age he became a worker and was actively engaged in his life's work until almost the very moment that his long and fruitful life came to an end.

He was always a vital force and exerted a great and wholesome influence in this community in which he lived, in the state and in the nation. For over fifty years he was the outstanding leader in the community.

Colonel Smith not only led, but cooperated in the development of Dwight. He was just as eager to cooperate with someone else's plan for civic betterment as he was eager to push his own plans to a successful conclusion. The citizens of Dwight are still mindful of the achievements of Colonel Smith, in many of which they participated and in many of which they were the personal beneficiaries.

It is fitting that in the History of Dwight the efforts of Colonel Frank L. Smith should be given a place along with those pioneers and their successors who also devoted their best efforts to the betterment of our community.

FRANK L. SMITH AGENCY

C. J. AHERN, JR.

CLARE R. McNAMARA

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Property Management

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Real Estate

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

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PHONE 8

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DWIGHT, ILL.

Hudson

DELONG'S GARAGE & MACHINE SHOP

212 E. DELAWARE

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DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

Established In 1912

CLAUDE C. DeLONG

EDWARD DeLONG

JAMES DeLONG

CLAUDE J. DeLONG



Art Hinch, Clarence E. Boyer, Ralph H. Boyer and Elwood A. Boyer

The success and the continuation of our business, and the security of our employment depend upon the number of satisfied customers. None of us should ever forget that the person we all work for is the CUSTOMER.

Community Relationships

It is important that our company be known as a "Good Citizen" of Dwight. Such a reputation can be earned only if every employee, as well as the company, accepts his full share of community responsibilities.

Facts About Our Company

This business was established in 1911 by George Brumbach, Clarence and Elwood Boyer. It was known as Brumbach and Boyers Garage. In 1912 and 1913 the present building was built and one of the first modern garages in this section of the State was opened for business. A Buick Contract was secured in 1912 and they were sold along with other makes of cars as follows; Chandler, Chalmers, Paige and Oakland.

On 1 March 1914 George Brumbach sold out his share of the business to Clarence and Elwood, and the business was renamed Boyer Bros., which it has carried through to the present time. In 1916 they lost the Buick Contract and took on Studebaker.

R. M. Boyer worked for Boyer Bros. from 1912 to 1918 at which time he entered the service. Upon his return in 1919 he bought $\frac{1}{3}$ interest in the business.

In 1919 Boyer Bros. secured a contract to sell the Maxwell Car in addition to the others. From 1923 to 1933 they sold the Dodge car as an associate dealer under Parrish and Rennig of Pontiac, Illinois. In 1924 a Chrys-

ler Franchise was obtained which lasted until 1925 when Christopher Co., who held the Buick Contract, and Boyer Bros. agreed to switch contracts. This was done and both have held these contracts without interruption to the present time.

Elwood Boyer sold his $\frac{1}{3}$ interest to Clarence and Ralph in September 1928, and moved to California to open and operate Boyer's Garage in Pasadena.

Boyer Bros. secured the Pontiac Contract in 1933 and dropped all cars with the exception of Buick thus operating as a dual dealership until 1941 at which time the Pontiac Contract was dropped.

Clarence Boyer died on May 23, 1942 and left his share of the business to his son Herbert C. Boyer. On June 1, 1942 Herbert was installed as a full partner and he and Ralph have operated the business to the present time.

A major addition of a new shop was added to the original building in the fall of 1946, and with the purchase of new tools, machinery and extensive remodeling of the original building we have the plant we work in at the present time.

All of our employees have helped us to build a fine reputation in this community. We would not have succeeded without such fine cooperation. We will do everything we can to maintain these fine relationships.

In Conclusion

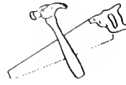
We want you to remember that every relation you have with our customers, you are the company. The customer's impression and his estimate of the company may depend exclusively upon you. Also remember that always we want the company operated under the highest of business standards.

BOYER BROTHERS GARAGE

Buick Motor Cars

DWIGHT

ILLINOIS



CARL TOCK LUMBER CO.

- Lumber
- Coal
- Building Materials
- Window Glass

PHONE 46

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DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

STEVE ZAPPA TAVERN AND LIQUOR STORE

Schlitz On Tap

ICE COLD BEER BY THE CASE

Complete Line of Whiskey and Wine By the Bottle

FREE DELIVERY

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LEWIS JEWELERS

Gifts for All Occasions

WATCH REPAIRING

Serving Dwight Since 1898

HAROLD F. LEWIS, OWNER

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DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

VON QUALEN FUNERAL HOME

ESTABLISHED IN DWIGHT 1912

*An ultra-modern funeral home located at the corner of
Washington and Mazon Avenues*

VERNON VON QUALEN, MORTICIAN

DWIGHT CLEANERS

ESTABLISHED 1932

COMPLETE CLEANING SERVICE

A. W. ERICKSON—J. R. PERSCHNICK

1854—DWIGHT'S 100th BIRTHDAY—1954

FARBERS

Gifts for All Occasions

COSTUME JEWELRY • BERKSHIRE NYLONS

BARBIZON AND GOLD STRIPE LINGERIE

MRS. STEVENS CANDY

IMPERIAL CANDLEWICK

BLUE RIDGE POTTERY

WHITE AND WYCKOFF STATIONERY

Compliments

CHRISTOPHER CO.

CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH DEALER

Van Eman & Sondergaard

DRY GOODS-FURNISHINGS-SHOES

In Dwight Since 1902

AL'S TAVERN

152 EAST STREET

BEER - WINES - LIQUOR

Pabst On Tap

Centennial Congratulations

ALBERT TUNBERG POST 2608

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

and

The Beachead, Inc.

ON OLD ROUTE 66—DWIGHT

J. A. MILBAUER

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Phone 216

BOWES



**"AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS
OF OUTSTANDING QUALITY"**

BOWES



**Congratulations to the community
of Dwight in their
Centennial Year**



BOWES "SEAL FAST" CORP.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Since 1919

RAYMOND E. HOPP

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR

Since 1936

Seabert Electrical & Radio Shop

SYLVANIA, EMERSON, MOTOROLA

DUMONT AND ADMIRAL

Radio, Television Sales & Service

DWIGHT

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PHONE 30

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ILLINOIS

STUDEBAKER

The Oldest Automobile Manufacturer In America Today

1852-1954

SALUTES

Dwight and community on their
100th year of progress

BAIMA MOTOR SALES

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !



To the citizens of Dwight on
marking this 100th anniversary
in your history of progress. An-
drews "Your Home Grocer" are
proud to be a part of this history.

ANDREWS "Your Home Grocer"

104 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET—DWIGHT, ILL.

MIDWEST STORES SERVE THEIR CUSTOMERS WITH QUALITY FOODS AT LOW PRICES.

MOBIL HEAT FUEL OIL

by the makers of

MOBIL OIL AND MOBIL GAS

Call William E. Call

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George C. Peterson Co.

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Shell Super Service

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MAZON AND FRANKLIN

• PHONE 499 •

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

STETSON HATS

ARROW SHIRTS

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FAIRCHILD'S
MEN'S WEAR

HARRIE J. FAIRCHILD

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WILSON BROS.

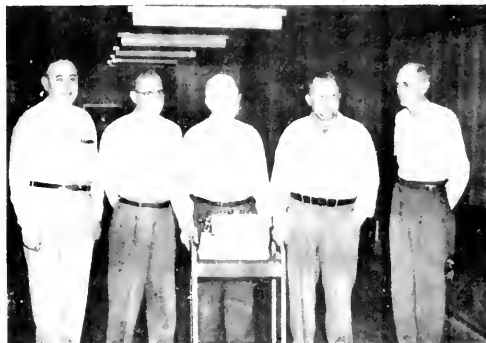
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1953 and 1954

PIERCE'S KILROYS

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219 EAST MAZON AVENUE

CARUSO RICCOLO

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A GREAT PAST — A GREATER FUTURE

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118 South Franklin St. --Dwight

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Air Conditioned for your Comfort



Knudsen Concrete Products

Ready-Mix Concrete

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RIBER & SON

Contractors

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DREDGING

BULLDOZING

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STANDARD SERVICE STATION

Phone 488 — Dwight

GASOLINE • OIL • TIRES

BATTERIES

ACCESSORIES



WE TIP OUR HAT TO THE CITY OF DWIGHT

The Standard Oil Company, serving Dwight since 1892, congratulates the City of Dwight on its 100th anniversary.

As Dwight has progressed, the Standard Oil Company has kept pace. Today, we serve this area with the finest quality products that continuing research makes available.

R. E. "Bob" Sampson

Agent

STANDARD OIL COMPANY

DWIGHT

ILLINOIS



**IF YOU LIKE IT
in the showroom**

**"ROCKET"
ENGINE
OLDSMOBILE**



**-You'll Love it
on the Road!**

FEDDERSEN SALES & SERVICE

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

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Livestock, Grain

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Market

WEST STREET

PHONE 306

AUGIE CHIOVATERO

JAMES BALLOU



Coffee Sold for \$1.29

Riccolo

SHOE REPAIR SHOP

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DWIGHT



ALPHONSE RICCOLO, PROP.

THE EPSTEIN STORE

OUR 45th ANNIVERSARY
1909—1954

Abraham B. and Nathan Epstein from 1909 to 1921
Nate and Lee Epstein from 1922 to 1954



DRY GOODS—CLOTHING & SHOES
LADIES & GENTS FURNISHINGS
SHOES & FURNISHINGS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
FLORSHEIM SHOES FOR THE MEN

Quality Merchandise at Reasonable Prices

MOST OF OUR MERCHANDISE
NATIONALLY ADVERTISED BRANDS

If

YOU WANT THE

KING

OF HYBRIDS

Buy

CROWS FILM-COTED
DEEPROOT SEED CORN



FRED ZABEL—DEALER

Dwight's Only

HOME-OWNED DAIRY

*42 Years of
Continuous Service*



KELCH'S SANITARY DAIRY

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Feeds—Poultry Supplies

BUYER OF
Quality Eggs and Poultry



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DWIGHT, ILL.

Congratulations

TO DWIGHT CENTENNIAL

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Contractors and Builders

DEPENDABLE SERVICE TO THIS
COMMUNITY FOR HALF A CENTURY

**APPLIANCES
HARDWARE
PAINTS
HOUSEWARES
SPORTING GOODS**

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L. R. FRY HARDWARE

Dwight 36

108 S. FRANKLIN ST.

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

Congratulations, Dwight . . .

on your 100th birthday. The progress of time has brought many improvements and changes.

We are celebrating your birthday by bringing to Dwight a new modern and up-to-date custom feed mill. A new addition to our grain business, thus furthering your march of progress.

SCOTT GRAIN CO.

S. C. SCOTT

J. C. SCOTT

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Phone 187R — Dwight

**HARVEY
&
EARL
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SPOTTED POLAND CHINA HOGS

FRANK ZAPPA, SR.

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Lennox Heating

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Established in Dwight

1920

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& SON

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CLEM STEICHEN & SONS

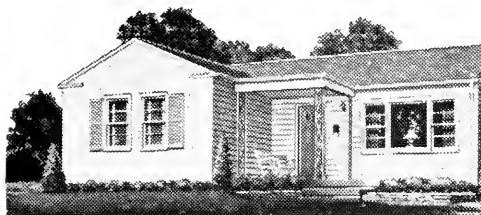
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Farm Machinery
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Clarence Smith

ELECTRICAL WIRING
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For complete information, plans, estimates and
financing of Pease homes, call, write or visit me.

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Milady

BEAUTY SHOP

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WRIGHT BROTHERS

Contractors—Builders



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311 E. MAZON AVE.

29 Years . . .

**MUTUAL INSURANCE
SERVICE**

Farm & Town

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CHARLES LAURITZEN

222 POLLARD AVE.

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

DWIGHT

is our home,
and we're proud
of it!

GROLL DECORATORS

ROBERT GROLL/LOU GROLL

NIESEN BROS. TRUCKING

PHONE 526W

LIMESTONE & PHOSPHATE

Hauling & Spreading

COAL, SAND, GRAVEL HAULING

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*Serving Dwight and Community
for the Past 20 Years*

COMPLIMENTS OF

PIONEER

HI-BRED CORN CO.

of Illinois

PRINCETON, ILL.

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W. HAROLD KELLY

COMPLIMENTS OF

DIPPON'S

DWIGHT PRODUCE CO.

*Produce—Feeds
and Supplies*

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DWIGHT

Landers Service

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*Used cars and
mechanical work*

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RT. 47

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Successful Next

100 Years

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CHIANAKAS

STANDARD SERVICE

Mike & Andy

Complete Auto Body

- GLASS REPLACEMENT
- STRAIGHTENING
- PAINTING
- WELDING

Free Estimates

WEBER'S BODY SHOP

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DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

Franchised Dealer for —

ANSCO • ARGUS • REVERE
BELL HOWELL • TDC • POLAROID • WOLLENSAK

CAMERAS AND PROJECTORS

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ADDING MACHINES AND TYPEWRITERS



DWIGHT NEWS AGENCY

United Cigar Store Sales Agent

PHONE 296

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

COUNTY CLERK



IRA L. BOYER

COUNTY JUDGE



J. H. McFADDEN

COUNTY TREASURER



CHARLES P. YOUNG

CO. SUPT. OF SCHOOLS



LUCILE GOODRICH

SHERIFF



WILLIS R. HARMS

CONGRATULATIONS!

LIVINGSTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

1954

The Best of Luck to . . .

DWIGHT

On Its Centennial Celebration

Tony Anselment

Baley's Pool and Lunch

Cahill's Service Station

Daniel's Auto Supply

Hollywood Beauty Shop

Dwight Repair Service

Clarence Kline

Knudsen Tailor Shop

Earl Koehler Transfer

Landon Service Station

Steichen Sinclair Service

Turner's Barber Shop

Walt Houck

Bessey Auto Body Shop

Prairie Queen Rebecca Lodge No. 370

Order of Eastern Star No. 166

V. F. W. Auxiliary No. 2608

Dwight Prime Home Bureau

R. H. Rein, D.C.

F. H. Sterrenberg, O.D.

A. J. McGee, M.D.

E. F. Joss, M.D.

Aage Steiniche, M.D.

J. J. Burns, D.D.S.

F. H. Riegel, D.D.S.

W. A. Weldon, D.V.M.

R. K. Gay, D.V.M.

Illinois Bell Telephone Co.

Charles D. McWilliams, Jr.

Public Service Co. of N. Illinois



Members of the Dwight Woman's Club assisted by other Dwight people have been hard at work building and painting scenery to be used in the Centennial Pageant. All the work was done in the old Blitstein Barn on East Delaware St. Mrs. Phyllis Groll was general supervisor of the work.



The pages of the *Dwight Centennial Book* are closed. It is filled with stories of the past, pictures of people and places which were long gone and almost forgotten, together with articles of present day interest. The Historical Committee, to whom this assignment was given, presents this book to the residents and friends of the community of Dwight, hopeful that in it they will find a source of much interest.

The *Dwight Centennial Committee* appreciates the help and co-operation which has come from the civic, fraternal, patriotic and religious organizations in the Village as well as the untiring work which has been done by individuals. Without this united endeavor the Centennial could not have been undertaken and without this spirit it could not be brought to a successful close. The Committee thanks you.

That pleasant memories of the *Dwight Centennial* stay with you, is the wish of your Committee.

PHONE 84

DICKLER INSURANCE AGENCY

128 East Main Street
DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

CONGRATULATIONS AND SUCCESS, DWIGHT, IN THE CELEBRATION
OF OUR 100th ANNIVERSARY FROM THE DICKLER INSURANCE
AND REAL ESTATE AGENCY. I AM GRATEFUL IN HAVING HAD
THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING THE PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN IN
THEIR INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE NEEDS FOR THE PAST
21 YEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE TO GO FORWARD IN GROWTH
AND PROSPERITY IN OUR NEXT 100 YEARS.

Edward E. Dickler



WE'RE PUSHING ONE HUNDRED



Although we won't be celebrating our centennial for another few years, we think we've got quite a bit of history behind us — history which reaches back over four generations!

It all started with Isaac H. Baker, the

present owner's father's father's father, who settled in Dwight in 1855. A master of many trades, Isaac Baker, during his lifetime, built railroads, operated a hotel, farmed two sections of land in Nebraska, and was an expert carpenter, builder, furniture- and casket-maker.



In 1866 — although he had been acting in these capacities before — Isaac Baker formally established a furniture and undertaking business, in a brick building of his own construction, occupying the same site as the present Baker & Son store, illustrated at left. Charles M. Baker followed in his father's footsteps. Then came Roy M. Baker, the son of Charles; he was followed by the present owner, James R. Baker, to bring the four-generation father-to-son cycle up to date.

In 1946, the Baker & Son Funeral Home was moved from the store location on Main Street to its present residential site at the corner of Prairie Avenue and Waupansie Street (below).

The Experienced Baker & Son Staff:

James R. Baker — *Funeral Director and Embalmer*

James P. Burns — *who, as Funeral Director and Embalmer, has been with the firm for 45 years — working with three generations of Bakers!*

Roswell Sloan — *Embalmer*

Mrs. Walter Smith — *Secretary*

Miss Margaret Moloney — *Bookkeeper*



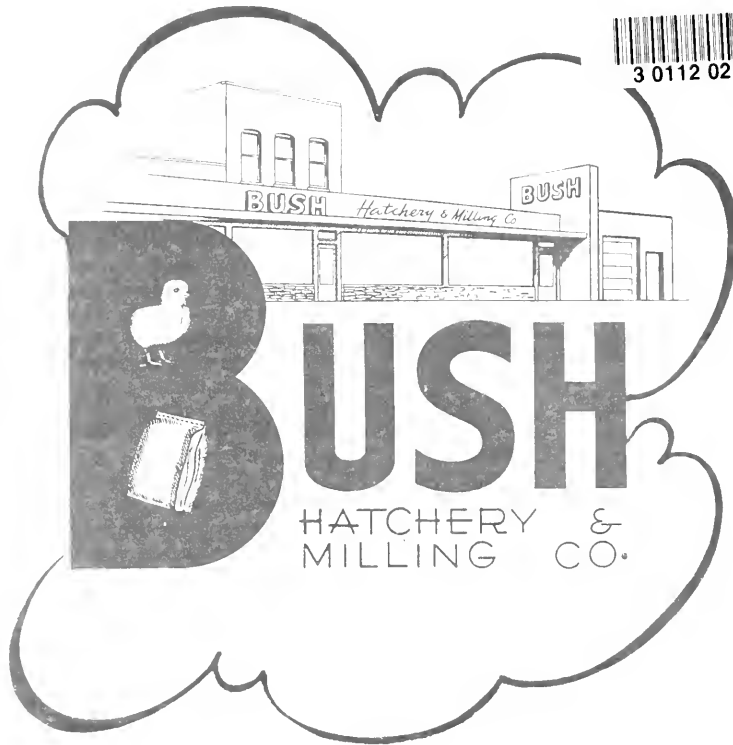
FURNITURE • FUNERAL HOME • AMBULANCE SERVICE



BAKER & SON



Since 1866



STREATOR

A GLANCE IN THE PAST... A LOOK IN THE FUTURE

DWIGHT

Dwight has completed a century of living, and we are now celebrating that milestone. However, we must look ahead and pledge equal progress for the years to come.

The Bush Hatchery is marking its Silver Anniversary. During the past 25 years we have kept pace with the ever-increasing demands of our customers, and in return, you have sought our products in greater numbers each year.

We have been working "hand in hand" with progress, thanks to your wonderful patronage conferred upon us since 1929.